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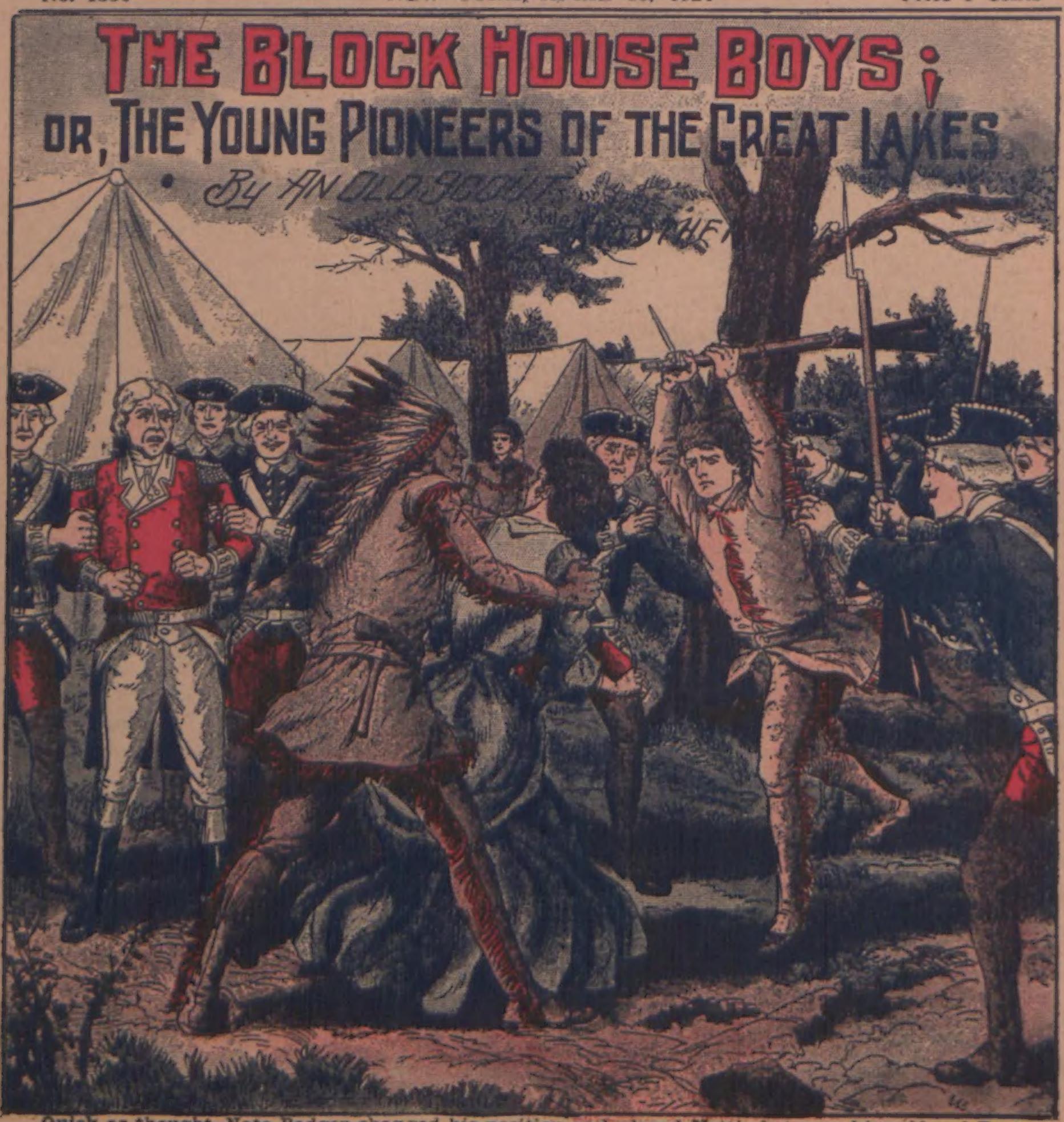
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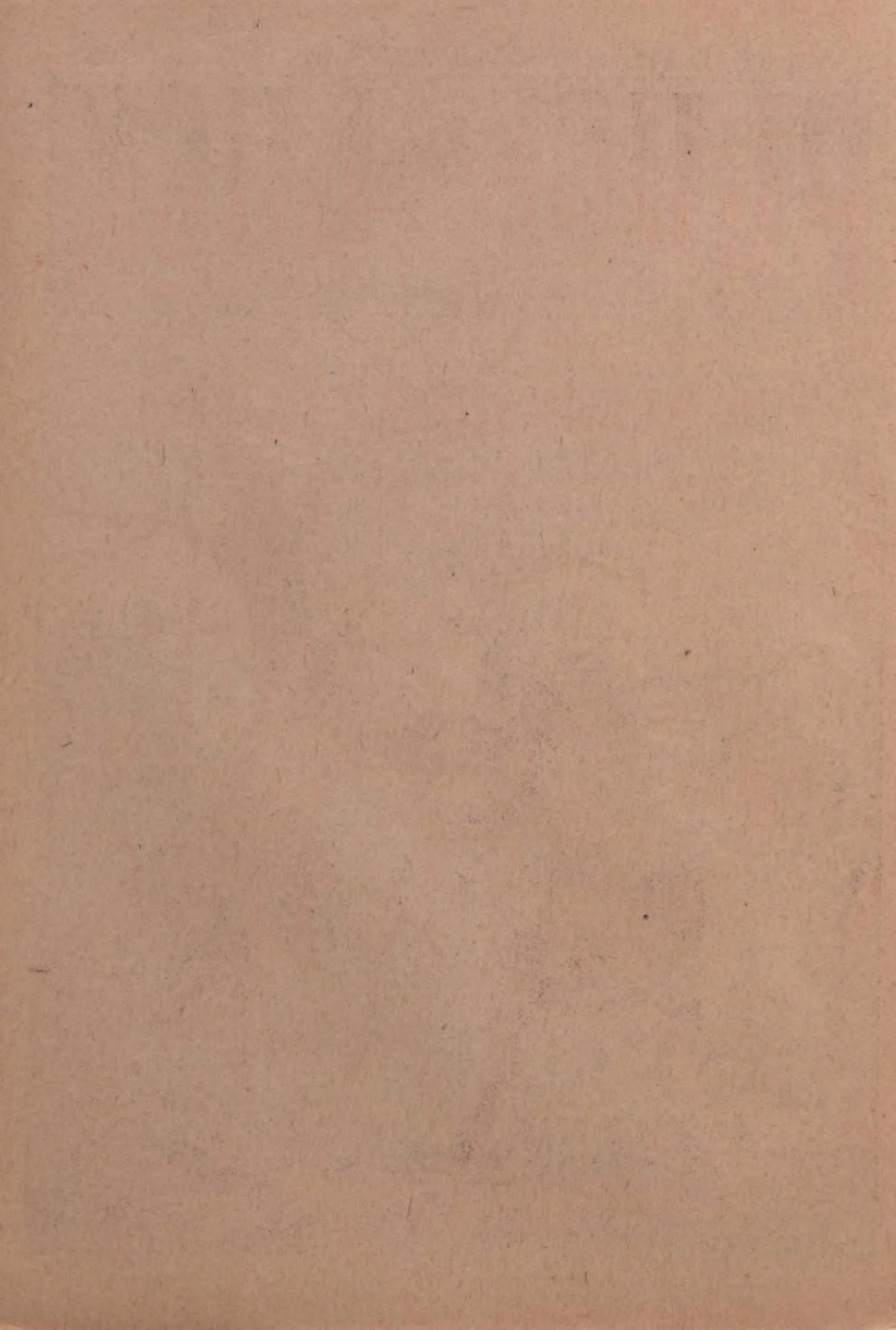
No. 1350

NEW YORK, APRIL 16, 1924

Price 8 Cents



Quick as thought, Nate Badger changed his position and placed Nettie between himself and Bert Shirley. The boy; was baffled then as regarded shooting. But, clubbing the gun, he rushed at Badger. There were many French soldiers spectators of the scene.



Are You A Radio Fan? Read Pages 24 and 25

PLUCK AND LUCK

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The Blockhouse Boys

OR, THE YOUNG PIONEERS OF THE GREAT LAKES

By AN OLD SCOUT

CHAPTER I .- Introductory Events.

It was a dark period in our colonial history when in the early summer of 1756 the French Canadian and Indian forces under General Montgomery captured Oswego, the American key to Lake Ontario, and a large quantity of cannon and military stores, together with the entire garrison of sixteen hundred troops. A more signal disaster could scarcely have befallen our colonies. Although for about two years the French and English colonies had been at war, the two governments had maintained the relations of peace at home until the spring of 1756. Then war was declared by Great Britain against France in due form, and the celebrated conflict began which is called in our annals "The French and Indian War."

General Abercrombie was in command of the American troops, while General Montcalm commanded the French and Indians. At the date of which we are writing the Americans had constructed a strong block house or log fort at the settlement of William Henry, so that in the event of an Indian attack the settlers might have a place to shelter themselves and families and defend it against their red foes. One moonlight night, not long after the French and Indian victory at Oswego, Legrand Shirley, the hunter of the block house at William Henry settlement, and Manatock, a friendly Mohawk Indian, left the log fort and made their way swiftly northward into the great forest.

Legrand Shirley was a stalwart American colonist of middle age, who had emigrated from England some years previously, accompanied by his wife and two little ones, named respectively Gerton and Valentine. Legrand Shirley was the son of a wealthy English gentleman, but he had come to America almost penniless, and after the death of his beloved wife, which occurred soon after his arrival in America, he seemed to lose heart to do battle with the world, and being an excellent hunter he had been content to accept the position of hunter for the block house. There his two boys were reared, and they became brave young pioneers, skilled in all that pertained to woodcraft.

Gert and Val Shirley were now aged respectively sixteen and eighteen years. Both were fine, well-grown lads, athletic of frame, with bright intelligent faces and good true hearts. Far and wide, along the American border, the boys were known as "The Block House Boys," because they made their home at the log fort. Manatock, the friendly Mohawk, was as fine a specimen of the grand Indian warrior of those early days as one can conceive of. Tall and magnificently formed, with muscles of iron; lithe as a panther, swift-footed as an antelope, cunning as a fox, and brave as a lion, he was a most valuable scout and ally of the Americans.

And he was particularly devoted to the Block House Boys and their father, who had on many occasions proven themselves to be his true friends. On the night of which we are writing Legrand Shirley was exceedingly anxious about the safety of his two sons, and Manatock shared his solicitude fully. The two lads had gone out hunting early in the morning, promising to return by midday. But they had not yet returned to the block house, and when the night fell, being vellnigh convinced that some calamity had befallen the boys, their father and the friendly Mohawk set out to look for them.

For some time the Mohawk and his white comrade followed the trail of the missing boys, which they had struck in the edge of the woods, in silence. But all at once, a distance of several miles from the block house, Manatock, who was in advance, suddenly paused, and pointing down at the trail, said in guttural tones:

"Senecas make tracks here! See, moccasin prints. Ten warriors came on white boys' trail here, and they not cross it."

"Ah!" exclaimed Shirley, "it is as we feared; the murderous Senecas are the cause of the non-return of my two sons. They followed Bert and Val's trail from this point. God grant they may not have overtaken and captured them!"

Many miles were traversed and still the plainly defined trail told them that the Senecas had not yet overtaken the white lads. From the latter's tracks the two trailers judged that the boys were aware that they were pursued, and that they were making all speed to distance the savages. Finally Shirley and the Mohawk arrived at a stream of water, and there the trail of the boys disappeared, but the tracks of the Senecas were found on both sides of the water-course going

upstream.

Shirley and the Indian followed the trail left by the Senecas until they finally lost it in a barren, rocky region a mile farther on. They knew the white boys had waded upstream to blind the trail, but they could not find where they had left the water. Presently, however, about half a mile from the stream which they had left to make a scout for the lost trail, Shirley and the Mohawk came upon the edge of a small clearing, in which stood a dilapidated log cabin, which they knew had been deserted since the northern Indians became hostile.

Just as they reached the edge of the timber, Manatock detected the tracks of the two white boys in the soft earth, with the toes pointing toward the cabin. Shirley counted ten warriors about the cabin, beside which stood a large tree, whose spreading branches extended out over the cabin roof.

"Heavens!" said the anxious father. "It must be, Manatock, that Bert and Val have sought shelter in the deserted cabin. But if so, why do they not fire upon the Senecas? They are close

enough."

"Manatock can say nothing bout that. Come, we crawl up like snake to help the boys, while Senecas break down cabin door."

Then, under cover of the grass, they began to crawl toward the cabin. Presently they saw four of the Senecas climb the tree beside the settler's deserted home. If they could have seen the interior of the log cabin they would have been thrilled to the heart by the discovery that the situation of the Block House Boys was even more terrible and hopeless than they supposed. Bert and Val Shirley were sleeping soundly upon their blankets in one corner of the log cabin with their guns beside them.

As their father and Manatock had learned from the signs on their trail, they had discovered a long distance back that the hostile Indians were in pursuit of them. Then they had fled at the greatest possible speed until they had arrived at the watercourse. That stream they entered and waded north for miles. At last they left the water where their moccasins left no impression

on the flinty rocks.

Climbing then into the tops of some studded hemlock trees they there concealed themselves until the Senecas came up. They heard the Senecas acknowledge that they could not find their trail, and say they would turn back and go to Fort Edward, a post some fifteen miles south of the block house. The boys remained concealed in the treetops until the Indians had been gone for some time. Then they descended to the ground again.

They were exhausted by their long run, and knowing of the deserted cabin they resolved to go there and pass the night, and then make their way back to the block house in the morning. Arriving at the cabin they entered it, and having secured the door by means of a stout oaken bar which they found at hand, they spread their

blankets, lay down upon them, and with no further thought of danger from the Senecas soon fell asleep. But the crafty Indians had not really left the neighborhood, though they had gone southward a short distance. They reasoned that the white boys had left the water where the flinty rocks would conceal their trail, precisely as they had done. Halting in a thicket, two scouts were sent out to make a stealthy detour beyond the rocky place in the hope that the lost trail might be found again where the ground became soft.

So it transpired that not long after the boys entered the deserted cabin and fell asleep, one of the Seneca scouts found their trail at the edge of the clearing and followed it to the cabin. Then peering through a loophole in the wall, the redskin spy had seen the boys asleep inside. He tried the door silently, and having found it fastened, he crept noiselessly away and, rejoining his band, informed them of his discovery. All the war party then advanced with the greatest caution, intending to take the boys by surprise

or kill them while they slept.

The cabin was provided to he a stone chimney, going down to a deep, wide, rudely built fireplace. It was now the purpose of the Indians, who climbed the tree, to gain the roof of the cabin and then drop down the chimney. The father of the imperiled boys and the friendly Mohawk saw the four Senecas lower themselves from the limbs of the tree upon the cabin roof and go to the chimney. Then they divined the purpose of the savages. Meantime the Block House Boys slept on, unconscious of the awful danger that so nearly menaced them.

All at once the legs of a Seneca warrior appeared in the wide fireplace, and a hideous painted savage silently lowered himself upon the hearth. For a moment he glared at the sleeping boys, and then, as another redskin came climbing down the chimney, he drew his tomahawk, and with the weapon raised for a terrible blow, he began to steal across the cabin floor,

straight toward the sleeping boys.

CHAPTER II .- The Death of Legrand Shirley.

Meanwhile what measures had the father of the Block House Boys and the friendly Mohawk adopted looking to the preservation of the lads? There was a clump of timber in the clearing not far from the cabin, and some bushes grew close to the rear wall of the structure. Shirley and the Mohawk instantly decided what to do. The former made for the bushes against the rear cabin wall, while Manatock gained the cover of the grove. None too soon did Shirley reach the bushes. He had just concealed himself therein, and raised his head and peered through a loophole, when he saw the first Indian who had descended by the chimney stealing upon his sleeping boys.

Quick as thought Shirley aimed his gun through the loophole at the murderous redskin and pulled the trigger. There came a loud report, and with a terrible yell the savage fell with a bullet through his heart. The two boys sprang to their

feet, clutching their guns as . the detonation of their father's weapon awakened them. But now the second Indian, who alighted on the hearth as the foremost one fell, darted at the lads. Then Val's gun exploded, and the second savage dropped at his feet, shot through the brain. At the same moment a volley of shots were discharged from the grove at the Senecas on the outside of the cabin. Those shots were fired by Manatock from his flint lock and a pair of the single-barreled pistols in use at that date. Every shot the Mohawk fired dropped a Seneca. They evidently thought a considerable party of enemies were at hand in the grove, and while the two who were yet on the cabin roof scrambled into the tree the other three made for cover.

Then Shirley quickly reloaded and brought down one of the Indians in the tree, while he shouted to the boys to come out. Meanwhile Manatock rushed from the grove, and shot the second Indian in the tree, while the boys unbarred the door and came outside of the cabin. Mutual explanations were made, and they set out on the return march for the American settlement. But the adventures of the night were not over yet. As they were passing a thicket some miles to the southward two shots were fired in quick

succession from an ambush in the cover.

Legrand Shirley reeled back and fell into his sons' arms. They half dragged, half-carried him beyond a tree. The Mohawk leaped to cover with a single bound and sent a bullet into the thicket. A moment subsequently under the moonlight two redskins were seen making off, dodging from tree to tree. Manatock would have pursued them, but he saw that Shirley was severely wounded. The boys had placed their father on the ground, and, while Bert supported him, Val tried to stop the flow of blood from a bullet wound in his breast, Manatock came and knelt beside his wounded friend and examined the wound. The Indian shook his head sadly as he saw that the injury was a fatal one.

"My dear sons," said the dying pioneer, faintly, "I must leave you forever. I am sinking fast, but while I have strength I want to tell you

something of the past.

"My father married a second time while I was a youth. The stepmother he gave me was a French woman, and she had a son by a first husband, named Volmar Kilda, whom she brought with her to my home. Volmar and I were about the same age, but we never became friends. The fierce, cruel disposition of the half French half

Russian lad repelled me.

"His father was a Muscovite. My father disapproved of my marriage and at that time made a will disinheriting me. But later on he sent for me and told me he had revoked the first will and made a second one in my favor. Whether he did it or not no one knows, but I believe he did. But the first will only was found at his death, in which Volmar Kilda was named sole heir. My father died a violent death. He was found dead in the woods on his own estate, where he had gone to hunt, and he had been shot through the head. Who killed him was never positively proven, but as one Bart Blackwood, a gamekeeper, suddenly disappeared and was never heard of again, it was generally concluded he

was the guilty party, and that he had fled the

country.

"Volmar Kilda received the inheritance and converting everything into money he came to America. His sympathies were with the French, and he established himself in Quebec and built up a great fur trade with all the northern Indian tribes, establishing branches at Crown Point, and in the far north. He gained great influence with the Indians, and on that account he has been made a colonel in the French army. Kilda has for years enjoyed the fortune that is rightfully mine, and but three days since I received a mysterious communication assuring me that the last will of my father is in existence and that I am the heir. The message was brought me by a strange Cherokee Indian. It was written on birch bark and ran thus:

"Your father did make a will revoking the one that disinherited you. The last will made you the heir. I can produce that will. Seek to rescue me from the Cherokee Indians, to whom I was sold as a slave by Volmar Kilda, and I will give you your father's last will."

"'Bart Blackwood.'

"You see, the author of the message was the missing gamekeeper, who was suspected of killing my father.

"Now, my dear sons, before I breathe my last, I wish you to promise to try to find my father's will, and also to obtain the inheritance Kilda has so long unjustly held, if the will proves your right to it, as my direct heirs."

Shirley paused, and kneeling at his side the

two boys said, in solemn broken voices:

"Father, we promise as you desire."

"That is well," he answered, faintly, and then he added: "Manatock, promise me, in the sight of the great Manito, that you will ever be a true friend to my dear boys."

"The Great Spirit hears the red man's oath. He swears he will be a brother to the white boys

of the Block House."

Legrand Shirley smiled contentedly, drew one long, deep breath, and when that breath was spent, his eyes closed, and his spirit took its last long flight, as peacefully as though he had only fallen asleep. The Indian and his sons conveyed his remains to the block house. A simple funeral followed, and Legrand Shirley was interred in the settlement burying ground. The Block House Boys were orphans, but everyone was kind to them, and Colonel Hastings, the good commander of the block house, said the lads were now the children of the post.

But about two weeks after Legrand Shirley's death, a French halfbreed, who called himself Henri Dupere, came to the block house under a white flag, followed by four hideous Seneca Indians. The French halfbreed lost no time in making known his business to the commander of the block house. He said he came as a messenger from Colonel Volmar Kilda to the sons of Legrand Shirley. Thereupon the commander of the block house called in Bert and Val, and Dupere, the halfbreed, gave them a letter written to them by Volmar Kilda.

We need not reproduce the letter. Suffice to say that the substance of the communication was that having heard of the death of the boys' father, though they had been long estranged, Kilda would like to benefit the orphaned lads. He went on to say that he would be glad to give them a good education, and in fact, assure their future success in life, if they were worthy. If they accepted the offer, which he made in all good will, the Block House Boys were to go with Henri Dupere, Kilda's trusted clerk, and the four "honest Indians" who accompanied him. They would act as an escort for the boys and guide them safely back to the French fort at Crown Point, where Kilda would meet them, and take them to his home in Quebec.

Colonel Hastings advised the American boys to accept Kilda's offer. The boys did not give Dupere an immediate answer. They thought the matter over and discussed it. Finally, after considerable reflection, the boys decided to accept Kilda's offer and go with the halfbreed and the

four Seneca Indians.

At the time, Manatock was absent from the block house, and so the boys did not have the benefit of his advice. Bert told Dupere that he and his brother would go with him to Crown Point. The French halfbreed seemed very much pleased. The following morning, after taking a tender farewell of Nettie Hastings, Bert joined Val and they said good-by to all their friends, who wished them "God speed," and then they set out, with Dupere and his Indians, to make the journey to Crown Point through the wilderness. When the party was half a day's journey from the America settlement the boys fancied that Dupere's good natured manner must have been assumed. He became silent, and only replied gruffly and impatiently when the lads spoke to him. The boys observed, too, that two of the four Indians now fell in the fear while the other two continued to march ahead.

That evening at sunset they made a camp in a little valley, under a jutting ledge of rocks. A fire was kindled, venison was broiled, and with this and bread all made a good meal. The boys fell asleep with their guns beside them when all the others of the party, save the Indian who was left on guard, seemed to slumber. But Bert awoke suddenly, though he knew not what had aroused him. In a moment he heard low voices, and caught the following conversation between Dupere and one of the Indians:

"In the morning," said the halfbreed, "I will make an excuse to leave the white boys alone with you and the other braves. Then you must kill them both if you mean to keep faith with Kilda, the great fur chief, and receive his gold."

"White boys shall die! Injun kill! Want Chief Kilda's gold," replied the fierce Indian.

Bert was amazed and terrified. Upon the instant he realized that he and his brother were the victims of a treacherous, murderous plot. Instinctively he felt for his gun. It was gone; so was his hunting knife, which was in his belt when he went to sleep. He saw, too, that Val was also disarmed. The Indians had taken their weapons while they slept

CHAPTER III.—The Block House Boys Unmasked in the Presence of Their Deadly Foe.

Bert waited for a short time and then he awakened Val by a cautious whisper. As Val opened his eyes, Bert added in his ear, speaking scarcely louder than a breath:

"Do not show you are awake. We are in great

danger."

Then, as Val listened in astonishment and terror, Bert quickly told him what he had overheard, and he added:

"We are in a terrible plight, and I see no way of escape unless the Indian on guard should fall asleep. We can only watch him and wait, praying that the opportunity to steal away, which is our only hope, may come before the dawn."

Val assented, and then the two lads remained silently watching the Indian guard, while the night wore on. Very soon it would be broad daylight, and then the French halfbreed would leave the boys alone in the hands of the murderous savages to be put to death. Their position was such that as they glanced upward they could see the projecting edge of the ledge of rocks directly above their heads. Bert all at once felt a pebble dropped from the ledge above strike upon his shoulder. He looked up quickly and saw two objects attached to a buckskin thong being lowered from the ledge by someone entirely hidden from sight among the stunted bushes that surrounded the rocks.

Just as Bert made this last surprising discovery there came a rustling sound in the bushes on the opposite side of the camp, which caused the Indian sentinel to turn and look in that direction. When the Seneca again glanced toward the boys, he saw nothing unusual. But meantime, the objects attached to the buckskin thong had been swiftly lowered beside them, and they had secured and secreted them in the ushes, against which they lay. As soon as it was fairly daylight the camp was astir, and Dupere said:

"Boys, I must now leave you for a time to visit an old French trapper, whose camp is not far distant, and with whom I have important business. In the meantime, you will be safe with

these honest Indians."

With this Dupere shouldered his gun and strode away. The boys had arisen and paced about a bit, to stretch their limbs. But they did not go many feet away from the bushes under the ledge, and all the time they watched the movements of the treacherous savages narrowly.

Suddenly the four Senecas drew their tomahawks, and advanced upon the boys threateningly. They sprang back beside the bushes under the

ledge.

"What would the warriors do? Are they not friends?" demanded Bert, as if he had no knowledge of their terrible purpose.

"Injuns kill white boys! Take scalp! Get gold!" replied the foremost of the redskin as-

sassins.

"Stand back, you treacherous demons!" shouted Bert, and then, like a flash, he and Val snatched up out of the bushes the objects that had been lowered to them from the ledge.

The Block House Boys knew their lives depended upon prompt and decisive action, and they instantly discharged their guns. Two of the murderous Senecas fell dead under their bullets. At almost the same moment a gun was discharged from the top of the ledge, and another Seneca dropped, killed instantly. But the boys' weapons were now empty, and they had no hunting knives. The remaining Seneca, who was a giant savage, secured his gun, and aimed it at Bert. But just as he was about to press the trigger, a pistol shot was fired from the ledge. The ball struck the fingers of the savage, and spoiled his aim. The bullet from his gun sang harmlessly by Bert's head, and with a yell of rage and pain the huge Seneca dashed into an adjacent thicket, and fied at full speed.

Then, with a tremendous leap, Manatock, the white lads' Mohawk friend, bounded from the ledge, and alighted beside the Block House Boys. He it was who had lowered the guns to them,

and he quickly explained:

"Manatock on way to Crown Point. Meet big band French and Senecas, turn back. Then strike trail of white boys and Senecas, know tracks of white boys, follow trail, come to camp, hear halfbreed and Senecas talk, see them steal boys' guns and knives. Then go on ledge to try save white boys. Manatock great warrior. Ugh!"

The boys expressed their gratitude, and told

how they came to be with the Senecas.

"Ugh!" exclaimed Manatock, "me no let white boys go to Kilda, the French fur chief, if had been at fort. Kilda snake. Now we go quick to cave of old Seneca medicine woman, who friend of Manatock, who once save her life. Wood full of Senecas and French on warpath. We make Senecas of ourselves, so fool bad Injuns and git

back to block house."

The friendly Mohawk signaled the boys to follow him and set out for the cave he had mentioned at once. He and the boys went swiftly on, and soon entered a cave in a range of hills, whose entrance was so well concealed that one unacquainted with the secret of its location would not have easily found it. An old Seneca squaw, called "Wyona, the medicine woman," welcomed Manatock, and at his request she provided him with one Seneca's warrior's and two boys' costumes, which belonged to her brother and two young sons about the ages of the Block House Boys, who were now absent on the warpath. Manatock and the white boys quickly disguised themselves as Senecas. The Mohawk painted the lads' faces.

But meantime a startling occurrence transpired outside of the cave. A redskin named Red Wolf, whom our friends had left for dead back at the place where Manatock had helped them to win the battles, arose to his feet. The bullet that seemed to have crashed through his brain had only grazed his skull, rendering him unconscious. He quickly took the trail of the Mohawk and the boys again, and gaining the mouth of the cave he peered within and saw Manatock and the white boys disguising themselves. Then silently as a shadow, and with a look of savage satisfaction upon his painted face, he glided away. Presently Manatock and the two Block House Boys emerged from the cave and took their way southward. An hour or so later they came suddenly upon a band of a score of French and Indian scouts. They

were discovered before they could retreat, and so, relying on their disguises, they held their ground. The French and Indians surrounded them. Manatock did the talking, and in answer to the questions of the French leader claimed that he and his comrades belonged to the southern branch of the Seneca tribe, that they had recently come from the neighborhood of the American settlements on Lake George, and that they meant to join the French against the English.

The enemy seemed completely deceived, and the French officer invited Manatock and the boys to accompany him to Crown Point, saying that the French commander would like to question them about the condition of the American forts on Lake George. Manatock could not do otherwise than consent, and so he and the white boys marched away with the French and Senecas. No opportunity to desert them came on the march to the French post, and at the end of the journey they found themselves at Crown Point.

Then they were conducted to a large cabin near the fort in which the commander of the post had his headquarters. Entering the cabin behind the French officer who had brought them to the post, they saw a stern, dark-faced man in French uniform seated at a camp table. The French officer saluted the man at the table, and indicating Manatock and the boys, said:

"Colonel Kilda, these Senecas are from the south. I thought you would like to question them."

"Ah, so I would, so I would," replied the other, in a harsh voice.

Colonel Kilda questioned Manatock at some length, and the crafty Mohawk's replies were satisfactory, and tended to carry out his deception. But all at once an Indian hastily entered the cabin, and Manatock and the two boys at once recognized him as the one Seneca of Dupere's band who had escaped them.

"Ha! So you have returned, Kanawah? Have you and your comrades earned my gold?" exclaimed Colonel Kilda, addressing the Seneca.

"Yes, Injuns killed white boys! Um dead in great woods! Here scalps!" replied the redskins, showing two white persons' fresh scalps in his belt. "Now Injun come for the gold," he added.

"You shall have the gold, chief," replied the arch villain, and taking a bag of money from his pocket he proceeded to count out a quantity of gold pieces upon the table.

"There is the amount," added Kilda, placing the last coin on the table, while the white boys looked at their foe and the blood money, almost breathless with excitement.

The Seneca was about to reach for the gold when, all at once, Red Wolf, the mysterious, whom Manatock and the boys had left for dead, burst into the cabin, and hurling the Seneca aside, he shouted:

"Do not pay that Indian the gold!"

"Why?" demanded Kilda, starting to his feet.

"Because he has not earned it. The white boys live and there they stand!" thundered Red Wolf, pointing at the shrinking forms of the Block House Boys.

CHAPTER IV .- A Thrilling Escape.

Kilda sprang to his feet, as the startling revelation of the disguised lads' identity fell from the lips of Red Wolf. Kanawah, the lying redskin who falsely claimed the blood money which Kilda had agreed to pay for the killing of the boys, wheeled toward them. The climax of the startling drama was reached. Quick as thought Manatock's uplifted tomahawk cleft the air as Kanawah wheeled toward the boys, and the weapon crashed through the skull of the treacherous Seneca. With a single outcry the stricken savage fell at the feet of the white lads. Then the Mohawk's hatchet whizzed through space as he hurled it at Red Wolf. The latter dodged, but his movement did not enable him to entirely evade the weapon. It struck him with the flat of the blade on the side of the head and he went down, stricken senseless, but not seriously injured. Just as Volmar Kilda recovered his presence of mind to some degree, and was about to shout for assistance, Bert leveled his gun at him and cried sternly:

"Not a word! Not a sound, or you are a dead

man!"

Volmar Kilda turned white in his alarm and rage, but he knew that the youth who menaced him was in deadly earnest, and he dared not utter an alarm. One glance at the Seneca he had first struck down with his tomahawk told Manatock that the painted assassin was stone dead.

"Ugh! One Seneca gone! Other sleep some time. Injun blind and gag white man. Then boys

go. Wah!" said Manatock.

Then he forced Kilda down, and producing some stout thongs of buckskin which he chanced to have with him, he bound Kilda and also gagged him, using a knotted handkerchief belonging to one of the boys. As soon as Kilda was properly secured the Mohawk led the way from the lodge.

Bert and Val frequently glanced backward in the direction of the lodge which they had just left. The Mohawk, too, kept glancing that way.

"If any one goes into Kilda's quarters before we are clear of the settlement, we must run for the woods," said Bert.

"White boy say right," replied the Mohawk.

They kept on, and at last they were clear of the village, and still they had not seen any one enter Kilda's lodge. The boys began to breathe easier, as the prospects of escape became more assured, and presently they were at the edge of the great forest that lay between Crown Point and the American settlement of William Henry. Entering the woods, they darted forward in a southerly course at full speed. But, all at once, the Mohawk, who was in the lead, held up his hand warningly as he halted, and then sank noiselessly upon the earth.

"Two white men come," announced the Indian. "Manatock hear them. He know um white man,

'cause make too much noise for Injun."

The astute and cunning Mohawk led the boys into a thicket, and they had scarcely concealed themselves when two white men, in the uniforms of French officers, came in view, advancing in the direction of the settlement from which our fugitives had just fled

One of the Frenchmen had got a pebble in his shoe, and while he seated himself on a log, near the thicket in which the listeners were concealed, to remove the anoyance, he and his companion continued to talk.

"Yes, our forces are promptly assembled at

Crown Point," said one of the Frenchmen.

"What is the objective plan-what American

settlement is to be attacked?"

"William Henry. Kilda means to capture the block house there and so open the southern portion of Lake George to the French."

"Do you think the campaign will be success-

ful?"

"Yes. There is an excellent plot on foot to betray the block house at William Henry into our hands."

"Indeed! How is that?"

"Nate Badger, the English renegade, means to open the block house doors for us at the proper time."

At this point in their conversation the two French officers moved on. As soon as they were out of sight the white lads and the Indian emerged from their concealment.

"Good heavens!" exclaimed Bert. "This is vitally important news. We must make all haste to reach the block house, and warn Colonel Hast-

ings."

While this exchange of remarks occurred they were proceeding rapidly. They all felt that Nate Badger would use all his cunning against them and their friends, and it was little wonder that their apprehensions were intense, for Badger was a vindictive scoundrel, who had been driven in disgrace from the settlement of the Americans by Colonel Hastings' command. Badger had been a thief, and he had dared attempt the abduction of Nettie Hastings. Swiftly and silently, while Manatock led the way, ever alert and watchful, the boys pressed onward, and meanwhile, determined pursuers, who possessed all the skill of bloodhounds in following a track, were on their trail. Some time after the fugitives left the settlement of Crown Point a French officer discovered the situation in Colonel Kilda's lodge. He was promptly released, and Red Wolf restored to consciousness. Kilda's rage may be imagined when he found that the white boys and their Indian comrade were already out of the settlement. But he swore they should be recaptured, and selecting a score of Indians noted as runners in their tribe, he placed Red Wolf in command of them, and sent them after the Block House Boys. Kilda gave the bloodthirsty Red Wolf the following final instructions:

"Run down the Mohawk and the white boys if you have to track them to the very doors and bring them back to me. This time I will trust no one save myself to dispose of the young rascals. When you have taken them, if you can trust your warriors to conduct them here, you had better press on to William Henry to carry out the dangerous mission you have undertaken."

Red Wolf and his braves at once set out in pursuit of the Block House Boys. They found the boys' trail and the redskin runners darted on and on, never once at fault. And later the fugitives met with an adventure that retarded their flight. Suddenly Manatock heard a twig snap, as he was leading the boys through a dense portion of the

woods. The succeeding moment he saw an Indian dodge from behind one tree to another. Manatock sprang behind a tree. The boys did the same. But they immediately discovered that they were surrounded by Senecas.

CHAPTER V .- Doomed to the Stake.

Of course Manatock and the two white boys yet wore the disguises of Seneca Indians, in which they had appeared before Colonel Kilda at Crown Point. Though the movements of the Senecas, who had stealthily surrounded them, seemed to indicate that the savages had for some reason hesitated about receiving them for what they seemed, still, as this band was not from Crown Point, and had not been before encountered, the only plan to escape them seemed to be to boldly play the part of Senecas, and rely on thus deceiving the hostiles.

"Ugh!" whispered Manatock; "we fool Senecas. make 'um think we of their tribe in the south."

Then he held up his hands in token of friendship, and boldly stepped from behind the tree, saying in the Seneca tongue:

"How, brothers, how?"

The white boys imitated Manatock.

"Whence come our brothers?" asked the chief of the hostile band.

"From the south," replied Manatock. "So Big Thunder said to his braves."

"And why did our brothers steal upon us as though we were enemies?" asked Manatock.

"Because you were strangers, and we have heard that some of the southern Senecas are friendly to the Americans," answered Big Thunder.

"That is true. But we are on the side of the Frenchmen. We come now from Crown Point. We go to carry a message to the southern Senecas from the great French father, Montcalm."

"Then you shall go on your way in peace." "Come then, my sons, and I will go," said Manatock.

Then waving his hand to the hostiles in the Seneca signal of friendship, he calmly led the boys onward again. But they had not proceeded far when the entire band of Senecas they had just left came rushing after them.

"Something wrong," said Manatock, grasping his gun firmly as he saw the expression upon the herce, hideously painted faces of the Senecas as they surged toward him and the boys.

In a moment the brave Mohawk and the boys

were surrounded by the hostiles.

"The warrior has spoken with a crooked tongue!" cried Big Thunder, as he confronted Manatock in the center of the circle his warriors had formed about the Mohawk and the boys.

"No; my brother is wrong. Pawhattan speaks with a straight tongue," replied Manatock, stoutly.

"And does the warrior say the young braves

are his sons?"

"Yes," replied Manatock, calmly and promptly. "Ha! The warrior is a snake and a liar," cried Big Thunder.

"Pawhattan would make Big Thunder eat his

words if he had not his braves to protect him,"

hissed the Mohawk.

"See. Look at the trail of the lads. Ha! The footprints tell the truth. The toes of all redmen turn in. Those boys are whites, for their tracks show their toes turn out!" yelled Big Thunder.

But the Mohawk proved himself a forest hero of the grandest type. With one terrific blow from the butt of his gun he knocked down Big Thunder. Then uttering the wild, thrilling yell of the Mohawks, he shot down another Seneca, and with his tomahawk in one hand and his long, keenbladed scalping knife in the other, he rushed at the wall of red foemen that hemmed him in.

Manatock's onset was resistless. One blow from his terrible tomahawk split the skull of a huge warrior who came in his way to the chin. Another of the Senecas went down under a blow from the Mohawk's knife that split his heart in twain.

And then Manatock was out of the circle of death that his foes had drawn about him. The Senecas to the number of a dozen, darted after Manatock, while those who remained behind, having disarmed the boys, tore off their Indian headdresses and removed the paint from their faces.

Then the boys were bound to separate trees and the savages collected dry brush and heaped it about them. When all was ready for the fire of death Big Thunder struck a flint, a spark fell among the dry punk he had prepared beside the brush heap that surrounded Bert, and in a moment the flames broke out. The boys gave up all hope.

"Farewell, Val, and may God have mercy on us both!" said Bert as the smoke and flame began to envelop him.

"Good-by, brother; good-by!" responded Val

falteringly.

But at that very moment the white boy's noble Mohawk ally was near. He had doubled on his pursuers, after blinding his trail by climbing a tree, and then swinging himself from limb to limb along a line of forest monarchs, whose long branches almost interlaced. Crouching in an adjacent thicket Manatock watched the terrible scene of the doom of the Block House Boys.

"The great Manito knows the Mohawk's will is good to keep his pledge to white boys' father and protect them. But Injun can't do it. Seneca dogs too many!" said the brave Indian, mentally.

Manatock put his hands to his eyes. He did not want to witness the awful torture and horrible death of the boys which it seemed must soon come. But all at once a chorus of yells rang out from the northward, and through the woods, coming from the direction of Crown Point, Manatock saw a considerable band of Senecas. The onrushing band quickly reached the war party who had doomed the Block House Boys.

CHAPTER, VI .- A White Man Under War Paint and Feathers.

The new arrivals were Red Wolf and the Seneca runners sent by Colonel Kilda to capture and return the Black House Boys to Crown Point.

"Those white lads escaped from the great fur chief, Kilda. He wants them back alive!" shouted Red Wolf.

As he spoke Red Wolf rushed to the brush heap about Val and began kicking it away.

"If the great chief, who gives the warriors powder and firewater, sends for the boy captives, he must have them," assented Big Thunder.

Then he threw the brush that was burning about Bert away, employing a pole for the purpose. After that the flames were quickly extinguished. Almost fainting from the nervous reaction upon being snatched at the last moment from what had seemed certain doom, the two white lads were released from the trees to which they had been bound. Red Wolf's party very soon set out to conduct the lads back to Crown Point. They were marched along between their captors, half of whom went ahead of them, while the others followed. Night came on and Red Wolf's party went into camp in an open glade in the wools. Four warriors, noted as hunters, were sent out after game. The rest of the band remained in the camp to guard the white boys. Presently Red Wolf approached a tall sub-chief of the band who stood near the white boy captives, and said:

"I must leave you now to go to the block house at William Henry. I trust you, Tall Deer, to take

the boys in safety to the fur chief."

"Tall Deer will do all his white brother asks," responded the Indian.

"Have you forgotten that I want to keep it a secret that I am a white man? Never call me your white brother again. To you and all men I an for the present an Indian," replied Red Wolf, dropping his voice and speaking firmly.

A moment later Red Wolf left the camp. Bert

and Val had heard all.

"Manatock was right in his suspicions. By his own confession Red Wolf is a white man," said Val.

"Yes, but who is he? Oh, Val, I've a terrible suspicion. I believe that disguised renegade is none other than Nate Badger."

Some time elapsed. But scarcely an hour had gone by when a Frenchman, clad in harf Irdian costume, and carrying a small keg strapped on his back, came into camp. The Indians greeted him with cries of delight, exclaiming:

"Le Pere, the fire-water trader!"

The Frenchman was well known and liked by the Indians, and he was soon dealing out whisky from his keg in a tin cup to the redskins, receiving in payment French gold, which but a week befine the crafty Montcalm had caused to be distributed among the Senecas. Very soon the entire band of savages, including Tall Deer, who was now in command, were deeply intoxicated. The drunken savages seized upon the white boys, and dragged them to a fallen tree, upon which they bound them, declaring that they meant to roast them alive. Only one hope animated the boys now. They hoped the four Indians who had been sent out as hunters, and were therefore sober, would return in time to save them. It seemed that this hope was to be realized. The boys had just been bound to the tree, when the four hunters returned to the camp, laden with game.

"Ha!" cried one of the Indian hunters, "the white man's fire-water has stolen away the brains of our brothers. They have forgotten that the

great fur chief, Kilda, said we must bring the white boys to him alive this time."

The speaker and the three other sober Indians rushed to the log and cut the boys loose. Then they began to expostulate with Tall Deer and the drunken warriors who now thronged forward threateningly, and insisted upon the death of the boys. Meantime the sober Indian who had first spoken in the boys' behalf whispered in their ears:

"Run for the great stump yonder! Monatock

will come after you."

The boys were astonished, but their hearts leaped for joy as they understood that one of the returned hunters was really the Mohawk. Instantly the boys bounded away. The drunken Indians could not pursue them. But the other three Senecas, including the disguised Mohawk, rushed after the boys. They reached the stump Manatock had indicated. There, concealed behind the stump, they found a loaded gun. Bert snatched up the weapon, leveled it over the stump, and shot down the foremost of his pursuers. At the same instant Manatock shot down another. Then he uttered the war cry of the Mohawks, and drawing his hatchet, sprang at the surviving one of the Seneca hunters. The latter had left his gun in camp. Manatock discarded his gun. In a second the two deadly forest foemen came together, armed only with knife and hatchet. Then an awful bloody duel ensued between the two Indians, but finally Manatock drove his knife through the heart of his antagonist. Then, with his bloodstained knife, he scalped the Seneca and waving the reeking trophy above his head and mad with the Indian fury which seems to seize them when they have tasted blood, he darted away, calling out to the boys:

"Follow Manatock, the Mohawk, and him save

you!" -

The boys sprang after the Indian. Val securing a Seneca's gun. They ran swiftly southward. The boys hoped their perils in getting back to the block house were now all past. They thought they could obtain so great a start that when the drunken Senecas sobered up it would be impossible for them to overtake them. But fate was against them. Some hours later the Mohawk announced that they were pursued. He said, too, that it could not be by Tall Deer's warriors. The boys and the Mohawk now ran at full speed. But the pursuers gained.

The enemy was very close now, and their savage yells rang in the fugitives' ears. They reached a log pen in a clearing and leaped into it. "Here we fight till die!" gritted the Mohawk.

Then he and the boys leveled their guns over the logs, behind which they were crouched, and fired at the enemy. Three Senecas were hit. They leaped into the air and fell uttering their wild death yells. Then from all sides, yelling, leaping, brandishing their weapons, charged the redskins like a legion of demons.

CHAPTER VII .-- A Man With a Secret.

At the block house, some little time subsequently to the departure of the two boys with Volmar Kilda's messengers, there was some excitement. A sentinel who was at his post on the parapet of the log fortress discovered a strange looking man prowling along the edge of the woods in the distance. Suspecting the man might be a spy in the service of the French, sent to inspect the log fort and the American settlement around it, the sentinel gave the alarm. Colonel Hastings thereupon instructed two old pioneers who were skilled scouts to creep out of the settlement and try to Carrier to a transport The sect with the feet to me leaving the block house when the stranger was seen boldly advancing waving his blanket in the Indian fashion as a signal that he came as a friend. Colonel Hastings then revoked the order to the two scouts and the stranger was permitted to advance unmolested. Arriving at the door of the block house the stranger said:

"I come in peace. I am a friend, and I seek one

Legrand Shirley."

"Admit the stranger," commanded Colorel III. in a lence to his order the door

"Who are placed why do year wit begreat

tres.

less. Let him the property and he will be the little of th

"Legrand Shirley is dead. He was recently

slain by the hostile Indians!"

Legrand Shirley killed by the Indians! Then by exclaimed the stranger, exhibiting intense agita-

And he added:

"Have I come too late? But stay. I think Legrand Shirley had two sons. On, do not tell

answered Colonel Hastings, quickly. "The

: ; s are living."

"Then I must see them instead of their father!"

"It is impossible, sir."

"How is that? Are the boys not here?"

"No. They left the block house but a short time since."

"Where have they gone?" demanded the stranger, with increasing agitation.

"To their father's brother by marriage. Volmar Kilda sent for the boys, offering them a good

"My God, the boys have gone to their death!"

ex limit the stranger.

mean you?" cried Colonel Hastings, cutching the infection of agitation so marked in

'I. me speak with you privately," said the

Firm er meaningly.

nel Hastings hastened to lead him into his principal quarters, and when they were alone the

Me to serie the late of the little of the li

can as to the party with whom the boys left the block house, and regarding their destination."

"One Frenchman named Henri Dupere, with a small party of Senecas, conducted the lads away. They said Kilda would meet them at Crown Point," replied Colonel Hastings.

"Then I must away. I'll save the boys if I can, and reveal to them the great secret, the possession of which has cost me very dear," cried the stran-

ger.

Then grasping his gun he rushed from the presence of the commander. The latter darted out of the blockhouse without another word and dashed away to the forest. Entering the wilderness he took a course directly for the French post, which he now supposed to be the destination of the sons of Legrand Shirley. Traveling swiftly, dodging with rare skill several bands of hostile savages whom he encountered, but meeting with several escapes on the way, the stranger at last arrived in sight of Crown Point. Halting at the edge of the clearing in which Crown Point settlement and fort was situated, the stranger suddenly became aware that four men were approaching. He immediately concealed himself behind a log, and presently the four men he had discovered. became seated on the very log behind which he lay hidden in the dense bushes. From the conversation of the four men the stranger quickly learned that the boys he sought were now fugitives in the forest pursued by savages. He crept away undiscovered and at once set out to seek for the trail of the Block House Boys and the Mohawk.

In his seach for the trail of the white lads and their Indian friend, the stranger displayed the greatest skill and acumen as a woodsman. All at once the stranger coming around the corner of a considerable thicket found himself face to face with a tall Seneca warrior. The Indian was one of Kilda's sentinels standing guard. The Seneca raised his gun, but at the same moment the stranger hurled his hatchet at the redskin. The weapon struck the stock of the gun, and it fell from the Seneca's hold without being discharged. The succeeding moment the stranger and the Indian sentinel were engaged in a terrible struggle. For a inimi special in the and the continuinci in doubt. But at last the strange white man succeeded in drawing his knife, and almost immediately he drove it to the hilt in the heart of the savage. The single blow of the white man's knife had slain the Indian, and the stranger gained to feet, but mily to you! had baden his dead foe in a faint caused by loss of blood and over-exertion. At that moment Volmar Kilda and Henri II II ... With the contract of the c the second the feet I am and the second the state of the state of the in the many that the second terms astonished at the sight of the stranger. The former tore open the white man's shirt to feel if his heart yet beat. On his breast Kilda beheld a blood-red star. The arch villain started back with a cry of alarm, and he exclaimed:

"That man is Bart Blackwood-he whom I sold to the Cherokees!"

"Mon Dieu! If he recovers to communicate with the sons of Legrand Shirley, the Block House Boys, you are ruined!"

Volmar Kilda drew his hunting-knife. But at

the same instant the seemingly insensible man

gained his feet with a bound.

"Duped! Deceived! He lives!" cried Dupere.
Volmar Kilda uttered a fierce cry and sprang at
the "scarface." But the latter felled him with a
blow from the stock of his gun, which he suddenly caught up. Dupere brought his gun to his
shoulder. Before he could fire, however, the
stranger durted behind a tree, and then fled
through a thicket. As he went he shouted:

"Justice shall yet be done! Beware of my

vengeance, Volmar Kilda!"

CHAPTER VIII .- The Chase on Lake George.

The war party of hostile Senecas, led by Big Thunder, were mementarily checked in their fierce charge upon the half-built log cabin in which the Block House Boys and Manatock, the friendly Mohawk, had sheltered themselves. But the respite thus gained by the young poneers and their Indian ally was but brief. Again the Senecas came on, yelling with renewed fury. The lads had quickly reloaded their flintlocks during the halt of the Senecas, and Manatock had also charged his uneering weapon once more. The Mohawk singled out the foremost of the Senecas, and dropped the red demon in his tracks as he was in the act of discharging a shot at the log breastworks. Val and Bart reserved their fire for a moment. Then they, too, discharged their weapons, but with an interval of a moment between their shots. The Senecas, seeing four of their foremost warriors fall, hesitated for an instant, and then fell back until they were out of range of the log fortress. As the Senecas fell back, the boys and their Mohawk comrade reloaded their smoking weapons. Manatock looked troubled, and the boys knew that the brave Indian feared the worst. They saw the Senecas deploy and station themselves so as to completely surround the half-built cabin at a safe distance.

"Ugh!" grunted Manatock. "Senecas mean we no creep away in darkness. The are forces, in

we must try fool 'em by'm by."

An occasional shot came from the Senecas as the moments of suspense for the besieged elapsed, and lower toward the distant horizon. Finally that the the moments of suspense for the besieged elapsed, and lower toward the distant horizon. Finally

"New get start before Senecas come," said

Tiete.

The Black House Bey followed over the law wall.
The Black House Bey followed, as Marker's leither way in the cheetion of the aliance for ber. With the airer's of the darks a term cloud; and gathered in the sky, and now the rain began to full. From the hy the Marker's reverse were at a call white, In a translation of ey were at the edge of the first Rut at hardine. They he gan to full that after all they readly which they began to full that after all they readly which they began to full that after all they readly which they began to full that after all they readly all the first limits and hardine with the law of law and the full that after all they readly all the first limits are and by the Sansa and the law of the law and the law of the law and law of the law of the

not far distant. The boys knew that their Indian friend had a hunting lodge somewhere on the lake, and they supposed they were not far from it now. This was presently proven to be true, for while they still held their own in the race for life, they came upon an Indian lodge standing in right of the waters of the lake.

"This Manatock's lodge when on hunt. Canoe yonder," said the Mohawk, indicating first the lodge and then a clump of willows growing down into the water on the bank of the lake. The lightning was again illuminating the scene.

Darting forward to the willows, he pushed a large, well-made canoe out into sight. Leaping into it, followed by the boys, Manatock seized the paddle and pulled away into the lake. The lumination of the lightning lasted but a minute. Then the darkness became more intense than ever. Manatock paddled swiftly down the lake in the direction of the block house at the settlement of the Americans.

"We shall reach the block house in time to warn our friends of the intended attack by the French and Indians, and defeat them if possible."

Manatock suddenly rested on his paddles, and they all listened intently. They heard the dip of paddles behind them.

"Senecas had got canoe, too. Where get one? Injun don't know!" uttered Manatock in a sone of disgust. "White boys take gun. Be ready. Lightning come agin. Then white boys shoot

Senecas if in range!"

Then he paddled away again as swiftly as possible. Then came another brilliant flash of lightning, and the Block House Boys saw a large canoe containing five Seneca warriors close behind them. They discharged their guns simultaneously, and two of the Senecas fell. The others returned the boys' fire, but the darkness that instantly ensued favored the lads and their enemies' bullets went wide. Manatock dropped the paddles.

"Mohawk run no further!" he uttered, in deter-

mined tones.

CHAPTER IX .- The French and Indians.

Manatock snatched up his gun. As he did so there came a flash of lightning. The Mohawk instantly discharged his gun. Bert and Val fired almost as quickly as Manatock, and their bullets disposed of the three Indians. The journey on the lake was immediately resumed, and without further adventure the Block House Boys and Manatock arrived at the fort. Of course there was pread to Bert, telling him she had endured misery during his absence, through fear for his safety.

Bert sought the commander of the block house and told him the French and Indians were massing at Crown Point, and were about to attack

them.

"Then no time must be lost in sending for reinforcements to Fort Edward down the lake," re-

plied Colonel Hastings.

"And I have made a great discovery relating to Nate Badger. Since Badger was driven in disruce from the settlement he has joined the meca Indians and became a chief. Colonel, I am convinced that Red Wolf, the most bloodthirsty of the hostile chiefs, and Nate Badger, the white renegade, are one and the same."

"Good heavens! And is with the French and Indians who are coming to attack us?" asked the

colonel, in startled tones.

"He is, and more than that, he is at the bottom
of a plot to betray the block house into the hands
of the French. He means to come here, disguised,
gain admission, and win confidence. Then at the
proper time, when the enemy attacks the block
house, he intends to open the doors for them."

But we are warned. Thanks to you and your brave comrades, we will be on our guard against all strangers. And speaking of strangers reminds me. We had a strange guest during your ab-

rence."

The colonel went on to relate all the conversa-

the latter's recent visit.

"Ah!" exclaimed Bert. "That man was surely Bart Blackwood, the author of the invsterious note my father received before his death."

Then Bert went on to explain about the history of his father's past, with which the reader has already been acquainted. Much surprise was evinced by Colonel Hastings, and the importance of the stranger's mission to the block house became evident to him.

As you are a sending to Pert Eleand for . * ' yourests," mally said the colors.

"Mentally " to be tend Bert, "Let us have for and and the property to the second to

"Good! You three are the best scouts we have," said Colonel Hastings.

The boys were at once provided with refreshthe Manufacture of the action of Me of the fire of the Me of the The transfer of the Article - Teller of William Herry 1 a forced We be after to Book He, a Boys error - the error of the Frit Fill and first er the first terms of the first terms of the the later than the same that the the line of the last terms of The second secon

"Where are they now?" re-

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The Block House Boys at once obtained an audience and acquainted the colonel with the situation at William Henry and the request Colonel Hastings sent for immediate assistance. Colonel Webb replied that he would send a thousand men within five hours' time. Relying on this promise the Block House Boys and Manatock set out to return to the settlement of William Henry. The Block House Boys had not made half the distance on their way back to the settlement when they were intercepted by a considerable band of hostile Indians. The boys and their Mohawk friend tried to reach the block house by making a detour. But when, having thrown their pursuers off the trail, they came in sight of the block house, what was their consternation to observe from the top of a hill which they had gained, that the French and Indians from Crown Point were in sight, advancing from the shores of Lake George. After making a forced march, as stated, for a portion of the distance from Crown Point, the enemy had completed the journey by water. A long line of barges, provided by the French in advance, had been employed. Each barge had a large lateen sail, and under a favorable wind they had made the voyage down the lake in less than one-third the time it would have taken them to come by land. This the boys and the Mohawk had not counted on.

"Oh, heavens! The block house is doomed! The reinforcements from Fort Edward cannot come in time now!" cried Be...

"Let's reach the block house without a mo-

ment's delay," said the other lad.

They were about to descend the hill, when, just below, they saw a dozen Indians and a couple of Frenchmen passing under cover of the trees, Bert started violently as he saw this party, for he recise deadly enemy. And Bert heard the villain say in incautious tones to his comrade:

"Nate Badger is now in the block house. I've seen his signal, that assures me our plot will succeed. He will open the doors to us, and then we'll hurl the Senecas in upon the garrison. The Shirley boys and all within the block house are doomed now."

The Frenchmen and the Indians of that band passed on.

"Now to reach the block house and expose Badger. After all, if the post can hold out for five hours the tables may be turned," said Val.

Then they started forward again. The Mohawk was in the lead. But a moment or so later they came face to face with Kilda and his redskins.

Instantly their guns sprang to their shoulders and the report rang out. Then the Block House boys and Manatock plunged into a thicket.

relied upon the Block House boys to bring them
the block house waiting to turn it over to his
friends.

However the property of the post of the property of the proper

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son found itself short of ammunition. A terrible scene took place. The fort was captured. The Block House Boys witnessed it from a neighboring hill, unable to give any help. Nettie Hastings had been abducted by the redskins. Manatock was also missing. The Block House Boys were also surrounded later and captured.

. CHAPTER X .- Running the Gauntlet.

The Block House Boys shuddered as they beheld Nate Badger in his disguise of Red Wolf,

the bloodthirsty Seneca chief.

"Yes," repeated the renegade. "The white boys shall run the gauntlet. They have slain many of the Senecas, and the braves must have vengeance."

Fierce cries, exclamations of satisfaction, and exultant yells greeted the speaker's words. He had proposed a terrible ordeal, which the savages

were fond of making captives undergo.

"You dastardly villain!" cried Bert. "You are worse than the savages, for you have had all the benefits of civilization, and you are a white man, yet you have leagued yourself with the blood-thirsty Indians to make war upon your own race. For shame, Nate Badger! For shame!"

"Silence!" thundered the renegade, and in his rage he drew his hatchet from his belt and advanced upon the boy captives and their strange

scar-faced companion.

"Ugh! Big chief spoil Seneca braves vengeance if kill white boys now," said a tall Indian as he quickly stepped between Badger and the young captives.

"Yes, yes, I forget myself. The gauntlet for

the young rascals," assented the renegade.

He put his hatchet in his belt, and the two white lads and the scar-face," otherwise Bart Blackwood, were bound to trees, near the stake to which Manatock, the friendly Mohawk was secured. Some of the Senecas were yet busy heaping dry hi ar and the princer at the stake, ard the jerne M and was terrify them, after the mong all the tribes it was derived a evidence of great bravery to r.... torture decently, and without showing a eign of fear. If Manatock was in fear and dread that it seemed the cruel torture fire would consume it., he did not show it. Minish warrior held his noble head high, and his eyes fla had with the tire of the to I rupe as he regarded his foes.

all like old women. The Mohawk spits at them.
They can be in the like of them and he will show them how a warrior can slay

such do ...; are," said Manatock.

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"How came you a captive, Manatock?" asked Val.

"Ugh! the Mohawk was captured in fight. Heap Senecas find him trail as him follow Colone! Hastings. Manatock made quick run. Soon find more Senecas ahead. Then both bands come at Manatock. Him made big fight. No good. Senecas too many. Manatock made prisoner," replied the Mohawk.

"And now we are all doomed and Nettie and her father are prisoners in the power of the French. Oh, Manatock, this is the darkest hour

of all our lives," said Bert sadly.

"Ugh!" grunted the Mohawk. "White boys say

true."

"But you must live! You must live to call Volmar Kilda to account! The man who had wronged your dead father and yourselves must yet be brought to justice," said the scarface.

As yet the strange man had imparted nothing of the secret of the past relating to themselves, which the Block House Boys supposed he possessed. But now he went on, speaking rapidly,

"My name is Bart Blackwood. Do you know if your dead father ever received a message from me, which should have been given him by a

Cherokee Indian?"

"Yes," replied Bert.

"Then you probably know what the message

was?"

"Yes. It stated that our grandfather made a will revoking the one he made disinheriting our father, and that the last will made our father the heir; also that you could produce that will, but were a prisoner among the Cherokee Indians, to whom you had been sold by Volmar Kilda."

"Yes, and all that is true. But unfortunate-

"----"

"The savages are coming!" interrupted Val.

The further remarks of Bart Blackwood were cut short. The next moment Bert and Val were unbound from the trees to which they had been temporarily fastened. The Senecas marched the two lads to the center of the camp. The whole band of Indians was now drawn up in a double line, so as to leave a space of three feet between their ranks.

Each of the painted demons held some weapon ready to strike the Block House Boys when they head of the gauntlet the boys were unbound.

"Go!" yelled Nate Badger, and he and a couple of powerful Seneca braves pushed the lads forward between the lines of death. The next moment they bounded down the gauntlet. But all at once Bert ducked his head and dashed it into the stomach of a big chief. Over went the redskin with all the breath driven out of his body.

In a trice, then, Bert and Val leaped over the fallen chief and broke through the lines at full speed. The Senecas were surprised. Rarely, if ever, had they met with a similar experience. A if ever before, broke through the lines of his fees, had now given them a chance for their lives. It is a limit of the lines of his fees, had now given them a chance for their lives. It is a limit of the lines of his fees, had now given them a chance for their lives. It is a limit of the lines of his fees, had now given them a chance for their lives. It is a limit of the lines of his fees, had now given them a chance for their lives. It

all might be well. If not, then they would surely be recaptured again, and another chance would not be given them. The hope of escape inspired the lads. They strained every nerve and muscle in the race. But it was not decreed that they were to elude their enemies it seemed, for all at once they heard a band of men in front. Then they turned aside and tried to avoid the approaching party, but almost immediately they found themselves surrounded by a large party of French soldiers led by Colonel Kilda in person.

"Ha! The very lads I was coming to secure at Red Wolf's camp. These are the American in a sile of the Killa, as he may be a first the

b.cck house lads.

But Red Wolf and his Senecas now came up and while the rain began to descend from the dark clouds that had gathered in the sky, Red Wolf Indians clamored for their blood.

caped from Crown Point. They were then my personal prisoners. But now, since they are

gade drew Colonel Kilda aside and said:

"What will be the fate of the boys?"

Death! They will be shot as spies," replied

the Block House Boys' deadly foe.

"Good! Then I am satisfied. I only wished to it is a second to private Year have in agreed to go to the block house in dispuise?"

"No," replied Colonel Kilda.

"Then you may expect me soon to come to your dertaking. I mean the girl, Nettie II.

The Block House Boys did not hear a word of this conversation. They were marched away by Called Millia. Then Badger as it is the first camp. But the test of Maratonk was postered. It will the Maratonk was postered. It will the house k and all the available for was so wet that it would not burn. It is not all the growidential that the storm had come it is the friendly Mohawk from this terminate in have been secured. The captive at the italian and the providential that the storm had the st

The rain may save the

Manatock.

rain sufficiently soaked the which his captors had post he might make them iree his hands. Once his id soon loosen his other

Lefte and concert term. Howe Literates were Colored Robert Const. LC. of the army from Crown forth cont.

General Montcalm was encamped further north with the main force. The French and Indians hoped to draw the American reinforcements into the forest and for this they were now waiting. Colonel Kilda meant to give the boys, whom he feared and hated, no chance for their lives now. By having them convicted as spies and executed, he believed he could forever rid himself of them in such a way that he would never be called to account for their death. This idea had occurred to him when he first denounced the boys as spies. Even then he had concluded upon recapturing them, and having them tried and shot according to military usages. Colonel Kilda was crafty an i far-seeing. Since he knew that Bart Blackwood had escaped from the Cherokees he was in mortal material terms of the second contract the seco a secret which the reader must surmise—that ne was in unlawful possession of the inheritance which should have been the lads' father's and which now rightfully belonged to the young scouts themselves. Colonel Kilda was not aware that Bart Blackwood, "the scarface," was now a captive in the camp of Nate Badger and his Indian allies. If the plotting villain had known that there can be no doubt that he would have attempted to immediately put the man who held his secret to death. Nate Badger did not know that the "scarface" was the custodian of any secret of Colonel Kilda. Had the renegade been aware of the fact, in all likelihood he would have made haste to inform his principal of his important capture. In Colonel Kilda's camp Colonel Hastings and his daughter Nettie were now held prisoners. The fellow officers of the gallant Hastings had been sent on to General Montcalm. The captive father and daughter occupied a tent in the French camp, and two sentinels stood guard at the door. Moreever the prisoners' tent was in the centre of the camp, and even if the sentinels had been guilty of dereliction of daty, the captives could not have escaped, for sentinels were posted all around the martinet, and he permitted no infraction of and out in a fit of the rest to Colonel Kilda, Colonel Hastings and Nettle lifted the tent flap and looked out.

At that moment Kilda and the detachment who are in the line of the encampment. Colonel Hastings and

"Oh, father!" cried the girl, in tones of deep to tured Bert and Val. Now I fear Kilda will show the brave lads no mercy."

"I share your fears, my dear," replied Colonel Hastings.

"Can nothing be done for Bert and Jal? Father, you must intercede for them. Speak to
Colonel Kilda. Entreat him to treat the boys as
prisoners of war. You know that the strange
scarfaced man told you at the block house that
Kilda wanted to have Bert and Val slain," continued Nettle.

"I remember, and I will speak to Kilda," re-

A moment leter, or Hills was partial the feat to

"Colonel Kilda, can I have a word with you?"
"What, now?" demanded Kilda gruffly as he halted.

"I want to speak to you about the two boys you have just brought into camp. They are regular members of the garrison of the block house, and I call upon you to treat them as prisoners of war," said Colonel Hastings.

"That is precisely my intention regarding them. They are spies. I shall treat them as such prisoners of war are always treated. They shall be tried and executed."

Kilda stalked on and, although Colonel Hastings entreated him to spare the boys, and declared that they were not spies, the villain would not listen. Nettie Hastings was heartbroken.

"Oh, heaven have mercy! That terrible man will have Bert and Val shot, and we are powerless to save them!" she cried, wringing her hands in mental distress.

Colonel Hastings could not comfort her. Indeed he believed that the fate of the two young frontier heroes was sealed. Hope of their rescue he had none, and certainly he had not the slightest thought that Kilda would relent. Bert and Val were bound to a couple of trees in plain sight of the tent occupied by Nettle and her father. Colonel Kilda retired to his tent to arrange for the form of a military trial which he meant to give the Block House Boys.

"We are lost now. This time Kilda will make he with the self to render us the least assistance," said Bert.

Value of tel in lighters word. Then in sileader and design the two how continue assett t what is to come. But a sant time, I wever, elapsed, and then Nate Badger, still in the full costume of Red Wolf, the chief of the Senecas, | Cilda's camp. The renegade utthe time remark to the boys as he strode by them on the way to the tent of Colonel Kilda. The boys made no rejoinder to the vindictive renegade, and a moment subsequently he passed from their sight and stood in the presence of Colonel Kilda within the latter's tent. A moment or so elapsed. Then Colonel Kilda and Nate Badger emerged from the tent of the former. Nate Badger had claimed Nattie Hastings as his prize, and Colonel Kilda had raised some objection. The truth was that the scoundrel had a half purpose of making Nettie his own unwilling bride. Since he parted with Badger in the woods he had been casting about for some end is to petain the cirl in his own namer. In his tent he had just told Badger that he had conci. li il il il i il i e e i li malf hall Mottin un a tall the training of the test, we then if the fit Committee and all the transfer and a selection of the sel I will be a service of the same of the same of the same of

"I demand the girl Nettie Hastings. You are to give her up to me. You must keep your word," nied Badger outside of Kilda's tent.

Nettie and her father as well as the two Block

House Boys heard his words. The young gire sprang into her father's arms.

"Well," said Kilda, in response to Badger, "since

you insist, you shall have the girl."
Then he turned to the sentinels at the doors of the tent occupied by Nettie and her father and

said:

"Bring out the prisoners!"

Colonel Hastings and his daughters at once

came out of the tent.

"Mercy! mercy!" cried Nettie. "Oh Colonel Kilda, do not give me to that merciless savage!" and she indicated the disguised renegade. Colonel Hastings recollected that the Block House Boys had told him Red Wolf and Badger were one. But Nettie seemed to have forgotten that.

"He is no Indian! Ah! What have I said?" exclaimed Colonel Kilda. Too late he knew he had blundered.

"You have unwittingly betrayed me. But the girl may as well know the trith is a land Badger!" cried the renegade. Then he suddenly sprang forward and seized the young girl in his arms.

That night Bart Blackwood, the man who held Colonel Kilda's secret, was seen to approach by the Black House Boys. Very soon he gained the boys' sides and cut them free.

Bert Shirley picked up a gun belonging to one of the sentinels just as he heard Nettie scream. Rushing to the spot, he saw the girl in the arms of Nate Badger. Aiming the gun at the renegade, Bert shouted:

"Release that girl or I fire."

Badger let go of the girl and Bert placed himself between Nettie and the renegade. Then clubbing the gun he rushed at Badger. There were many French soldiers spectators of the scene.

But the Block House Boys were recaptured and again tied to trees. During the night Bart Blackwood again cut the Block House Boys free and ordered them follow him to release Manatock.

Leaving the boys at the edge of the camp he stealthily crept to where Manatock was tied to a stake. He was soon released by Blackwood. Manatock dashed away, but Blackwood was seen by the Indians, who gave chase.

CHAPTER XII.—The Sacrifice at the Manito's Rock.

As Blackwood was bounding forward at full speed he stumbled and fell heavily. With exultant yells the savages pressed on toward the unfortunate man at increased speed. They were sure of his capture now and, indeed, it did seem that little short of a miracle could save the "scarface," for he lay motionless. The fact was he had struck his head on the exposed root of a great tree as he fell, and he was partially stunned. From their hiding place the Block House Boys, who had been eagerly watching all the movements of Blackwood, witnessed his accident. The strange man had fallen within gunshot of the concealed lads. By firing on the approaching savages the boys saw that they could check the rush of the

Senecas upon Blackwood for a moment at least, and there was a bare chance that such a proceeding might give him time to regain his feet and escape the Indians even yet. Bert's gun sprang to his shoulder. Val also leveled his weapon.

"If we fire we shall reveal our presence to the

enemy," said Val.

"Yes, but we must not let that consideration prevent our shooting to save a friend," replied

"No, no," assented Val.

Then both lads discharged their weapons. They had taken careful aim, and both their shots told. Two of the redskins who were foremost in the pursuit of Blackwood fell. Almost at the same moment the imperiled white man regained his feet and bounded forward. Now that the boys had revealed their presence, the scarface had no e for leading the Indians away from them, renewed his flight in the direction of the The shots discharged by the Block House Boys served only to check the pursuit of Blackwood for a moment. Then on came the whole yelling legion of red warriors as swiftly as before. Blackwood reached the boys and all three of the war to be a terrape. But the mer a limited began to discharge their guns, and those who car-1. Illand will-aland arrow later att fugitives in a dangerous shower. Suddenly Val threw up his hands and fell heavily. Bert stopped instantly and tried to lift his brother up and carry him. Blackwood came to his assistance.

"He is not dead. His heart beats yet. I'll never leave him to the tomahawk and scalping knife of the savages," said Bert.

"Nobly said. We will strive to carry him on

with us," replied Blackwood.

"We must make a stand here!" all at once cried III. when the Senecas were close upon

* The state of the s 1. As I when I have a second The same of the sa The contract of the contract o I was a property of the second ut desperate hand-to-hand fight be-: d the boy of the Block House and ered. And the Party of the Control of the the same of the sa the Start and Version and State State Street Street the light become principle. The definition of the real factor

did not observe Val had recovered. In the mad fury of the moment, when Bert and his comrade were overpowered, one of the savages, whose brother Bert had just siain, rushed upon the lad with his hatchet raised to cleave the white youth's skull. Val saw his brother's peril, and, upon the instant, he snatched up a gun one of the Senecas had dropped, and shot the marderous Indian through the heart just in time to save Bert. But then Val, too, was overpowered. Then the savages began to bind their captives. But all at once Blackwood threw off two of the redskins who held him and made a terrific leap into an adjacent thicket. The dense foliage instantly concealed him. Several Indians bounded after "the scarface," but they returned in a short time without him; Blackwood had eluded them. The boys were hurried back to the renegade's camp. There Nate Badger met them, and it is needless to say that the renegade exulted greatly over their capture.

The Senecas now clamored loudly for the blood of the white captives. Red Wolf, the renegade, decided that the captives should be slain.

A shout of approval from the redskins greeted this speech. Then the boys were hurried away to a cave at no great distance; torches were procured by the Indians and lighted; the boys were marched into the cavern and bound hand and foot; they were placed upon a great red stone in the centere of the underground place. Then Badger and his savages retired from the cave, and the two boys were left alone in the darkness. unable to move hand or foot. It was the custom of the Senecas of those early days to sacrifice their victims on some occasions. To this day a great rock, in Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, and called Queen Mary's Rock, after an Indian queen, is pointed out to the tourist who visits the scene of the massacre in that valley during the revolutionary war. On Queen Mary's Rock the to sacrifice their white captives. Badger and his band proceeded to draw lots to decide who should have the office of executioner, and the fatal lot fell to the white renegade. Nothing loath to slay the helpless lads, he drew his murderous scalping knife and crept alone into the cave of the Manito's rock. It was the custom of the executioner to slay the victims alone it seemed. Some moments elapsed. The band of savages outside of the cave began to grow impatient. They seemed to think that the execution was consuming too much time, as Badger did not reappear.

But when what the savages regarded as an unreasonably long time had elapsed, and just as some of their number were proposing that they should go into the cave, fearing that there was

his blood-dripping scalping knife above his hand yelling exultantly:

"The white boys are slain! The Manito is leased, and the Senecas are avenged! Whoop! Whoop!"

Besides the opening through which the boys had been taken into the cave, there was no other way into or out of it. While Badger was in the cave its entrance was closely guarded. It was impossible for the boys to free themselves. No one could possibly have entered to liberate them without being seen by the Indians.

CHAPTER XIII .- Manatock and Wyona.

Left alone in the gloomy cave of the Manito's Rock, while Badger and the redskins were deciding as to who should enact the role of executioner, the Block House Boys experienced feelings of intense terror and despair. The situation was terrible enough to try the nerves and test of the courage of the bravest of men, and it was little wonder that the Block House Boys trembled from head to foot, and shuddered at every sound. Many times before he really came, they fancied that they could hear the stealthy footsteps of the ex-

darkness of the cave was illuminated, the boys saw Nate Badger coming toward them from the mouth of the cave. In one hand the renegade carried a pine torch, and its light dispelled the darkness, and flashed from the glittering blade of his murderous scalping knife, which he held in the other hand. The boys struggled madly to free themselves, but in vain, and the renegade, who was coming to slay them stole nearer and nearer. The light from his blazing torch lit up his evil face, and showed his terrible purpose in its murderous expression. The boys believed that at last their doom was sealed beyond all possibility of deliverance through human agency. Finally Badger beside the great red stone rock upon which Then he set his blazing torch on end in the ground, and was ready to begin the bloody task he had come to execute.

"You shall die first, Bert Shirley," hissed the renegade, and then he raised his knife above the heart of the boy hero to deal the fatal blow. Bert closed his eyes, and with a prayer in his heart

Then he heard a dull thud, and opening his eyes he saw Nate Badger outstretched upon the floor of the cave close beside the rock. Over the fallen renegade stood a familiar form. Bert Shirley's heart leaped to his throat at that in-

"Ugh!" grunted the man who stood over the

Um no kill white boy now!"

The speaker was the friendly Mohawk who had promised the dying father of the Block House Boys to stand by and protect the lads always. But how came he there?

mad only discovered the soys as lifet!
about to slay them. So Manatock
with which their captors had secured t
Mohawk also added:

"Manatock fool Senecas heap. Make 'em think he Red Wolf or Nate Badger," replied Manatock.

The appropriated the garments of he had knocked senseless

he had knocked senseless

in the larger. It

cause the Senecas to think that the white boys were dead. The absence of daylight favored his ruse, which he hastened to explain to the boys. Then he added:

"Boys, stay here till Manatock come back."

Bert and Val assented, for they comprehended that only Manatock's daring ruse could save them, certainly, if they were not soon visited by the redskins, it would be because the latter supposed Badger had executed them. Manatock proceeded to bind and gag the renegade.

"White boys wonder why Manatock no kill um Badger?" asked the Mohawk, while he was thus

engaged.

"Yes," assented Bert.

"Mohawk heap cunning. Um keep Badger prisoner to exchange for Colonel Hastings," replied the Mohawk.

"Bravo! You are a trump, Manatock!" ex-

claimed Bert in delight.

Having secured Nate Badger to his satisfaction, Manatock gave him a slight slash on the hand with his knife, and then rushed out of the cave with the blood-stained weapon, as we have seen. The Senecas were completely deceived. They accepted Manatock as Red Wolf, and he led them back to the renegade's camp. As soon as that place was reached the Mohawk improved the first chance that he found to steal away unseen. He succeeded in leaving the camp undetected. Then he hastened back to the cave in which he had left the Block House Boys. Arriving there, he found the boys all right, and Badger was still a captive.

"What of Nettie Hastings?" asked Bert as

soon as Manatock returned.

"White gal in care of old Wyona, the medicine

woman of the Senecas."

"Ah! And Wyona is your friend because you once saved her life. I remember we procured disguises at her cave," replied Bert.

"Ugh! Yes, Wyona now with renegade's band."
"Can you not rely on her friendship to cause

her to give up the girl I love to you?"

"Manatock don't know. Years ago Colonel Hastings shot and killed Wyona's brother—Chief Chepata—in battle. Wyona hate Hastings; maybe hate white gal, too."

"But you will save Nettie?" implored Bert. .

"Manatock do um best."

"Good! Then I have confidence that you will succeed."

"Manatock hope so."

The Mohawk went on to say that Wyona's tepec was set up on the outskirts of the renegade's camp.

"Now, Manatock go to Wyona's lodge, try bring white girl back here. Boys wait, Manatock come again soon," continued the Mohawk.

Then he shouldered his gun and left the cave again. He went straight to Wyona's lodge, and boldly entered it. In his disguise of Red Wolf or Badger he did not fear detection. Wyona was alone in the lodge with Nettie Hastings when Manatock entered. At the sight of the man whom she believed to be Badger, the young girl uttered a cry of alarm and retreated to the furthest end of the lodge. Manatock had resolved to try to deceive Wyona and get her to allow him to take. Nettie away under the impression that he was Red Wolf. The Mohawk knew that the old med-

icine woman was very bitter against all who-bore the name of Hastings, and he feared that not even her friendship for him would cause her to him restore the maiden to her friends. But the friendly Indian was fully resolved that, if he could not take the girl captive away from the old medicine woman peacefully, then he would resort to force.

"Red Wolf has come for the white girl," said

the Mohawk.

"Ugh! chief take white squaw then," assemted

old Wyona.

"Come with me," said Manatock to Nettie, and with a sudden leap he reached the side of the started to leave the lodge. But suddenly old Wyona snatched up a gun, and springing before Manatock leveled the weapon full at his heart.

CHAPTER -XIV .- Manatock Outwits Wyona.

Manatock recoiled before the leveled weapon in the hands of old Wyona, the medicine woman. The Mohawk was completely surprised. His gun was now slung from his shoulder by a strap, for both his hands were employed to hold the white girl captive. Old Wyona, so to say, now had the Mohawk completely at her mercy. It flashed upon Manatock's mind that in some way the Seneca medicine woman had all at once detected that he was a renegade.

"Who are you? Speak, or .Wyona will shoot!"

said the medicine woman.

"I am Red Wolf," replied Manatock.
"You speak with a crooked tongue."

"How know? Wyona wrong."

"No, Wyona is right. Badger has the little

finger of his left hand missing!"

medicine woman said was true. The renegade by the accidental explosion of a gun, a year before.

"You are a foe! Wyona shoot!" cried the red

hag fiercely.

Her finger was on the trigger. Manatock knew

"Hold!" he cried; "I am Manatock, the Mohawk

he who once saved Wyona's life."

g her gun leveled, and with her finger yet me trigger.

Mantock lifted his right hand as he released

are Manatock," said Wyona. She was

as she recognized the Mohawk. "Why thite girl?" she demanded, as Nettie

tore the white girl to her in the Manager.

medicine woman frowned darkly, as

a will let the white girl go

"No. The white squaw is the child of the slayer of Wyona's brother."

"But white girl has done Wyona no harm."

"She is the slayer's child."
"Manatock begs for her."

"Wyona will not let her go. Anything else she' will do for Manatock."

"He gave you your life
"Wyona has not forgotten."
"But she has a hard heart."

"She longs for revenge on all that have the

blood of the slayer in their veins."

Manatock saw the medicine woman would not consent to let him rescue Nettie. Then he called his cunning to his assistance by suddenly exclaiming:

"What's that? Ugh!"

The Mohawk pointed behind the old medicine woman. She involuntarily turned in the direction he indicated. Then Manatock's clenched fist struck her a heavy blow on the back of the head, and she fell in a heap at his feet and remained motionless.

"Ugh!" Manatock had to do it," uttered the Mohawk.

Then he led Nettie from the lodge. As they went forth the Indian said;

"White girl, have no fear. Manatock true friend. Him take white girl to Block House Boys."

"Yes, and Manatock left the boys all safe in cave."

"Thank Heaven for their preservation!"

"Ugh! Great Spirit on side of white boys!" said the Indian.

Walking rapidly Manatock led Nettie from the camp. The Seneca warriors saw him and the maiden. But they suspected nothing of the truth, and so no one interposed to prevent their departure. As soon as they were under cover of

camp, Manatock led Nettie on more rapidly yet.

had seemed certain death in the cavern. Meantime there was an arrival at the cave. Bert and Val were at the entrance of the cavern watching and waiting for the return of the Mohawk. Presently they caught sight of Bart Blackwood. Almost at the same time "the scar-face" caught sight of the lads. Then he hastened to join them, still talking when Manatock and Nettie came in

sultation was held. Manatock proposed to visit the camp of Colonel Kilda, and open negotiations looking to making the exchange of Nate Badger, the renegade, for Colonel Hastings, Nettie's father. All approved the Mohawk's plan. Manatock prepared to set out upon his dangerous mission.

"If Manatock no come back in three hours, ha

Then Manatock, after giving his friends a word or two of warning—to be constantly on the alert to guard against discovery, took his departure.

Manatock traversed the forest swiftly after leaving the cave, and in a short time he arived at the cabin of Colonel Kilda. The sentinels around the camp allowed Manatock to pass them unquestioned, for they took him for Badger, the renegade, whom the Indian called Red Wolf. The Mohawk went boldly through the French camp to the tent of Colonel Kilda. Unannounced, he thrust aside the flap of the buckskins that shielded the door of the tent and entered. Colonel Kilda was alone in his tent.

"Ah, Badger! I did not anticipate seeing you so soon again. I hope you bring the news of the Block House Boys, who gave me the slip last night?" said Kilda.

Manatock suddenly raised his gun and aimed the weapon at the arch villain as he said:

"Me no Badger the renegade."

As he spoke Manatock heard some one at the door of the tent.

Colonel Kilda sprang to his feet, but Manatock had him covered. Mantock then told Kilda who he was and demanded the exchange of Colonel Harris for the renegade Badger. After contract parley Kilda consented and Hastings was produced and taken by Manatock toward the retreat of Badger and the Block House Boys. When they arrived there Badger was released and Blackwood and Mantock started from the cave with him. In the meantime old Wyona, suspecting treachery, set out for the cavern. Peril that the caver is the first like the caver and the say that Nettie was also released by Wyona and the caver with the caver to be say that Nettie was also released by Wyona and the caver to be say that Nettie was also released by the

CHAPTER XV .- The Battle in the Cave.

not long after the departure of Manatock and It will be the the second with Nation Builders, the - - aue, old Wyona, the medicine woman, ap-; ... hed it, As it was now broad daylight the aged Seneca squaw, who despite her years, moved with the elastic steps of youth, came toward the the second of the second of the line Rocks and and and and tall are a first . we say a colding to be coldinated And the state of t the military of the contract that Badger's Indian allies. The time went by slowly to the inmates of the cave, as it always does when xiously awaited. Nearly an hour had elapsed Mid In a whisper:

"I thought I heard a stealthy footstep in the cave."

In a moment the fugitives of the cave became

the dark cavern, and after him came Val. Pres-

ently Bert came to an obstruction. It was a mass of fallen rock which blocked the way, but it was only about three or four feet high, and the fugitives clambered over it as noiselessly as possible. Scarcely had they scaled the barrier when a ray of light flashed in the darkness behind them, and they heard the striking of a flint. The spark had fallen upon powder sprinkled on a torch and a blaze was the result. Then the boys and their girlish companion beheld a dozen Seneca Indians in the cave. But the whites crouched down behind the rocks, over which they had just passed, and the Senecas did not see them as yet. Of course old Wyona had brought the savages to the cave. In a few moments several torches belonging to the Indians were ignited from the one that was first fired, and the light thus afforded very well illuminated the cave. The Indians now hastily advanced toward the hiding-place of the boys and Nettie. Bert and Val felt that a crisis was at hand, and that the moment for prompt and desperate action had arrived. The rocks served as a breastworks, and the two lads leveled their guns over them. The foremost of the Indians was now very near the rocky barricade, and the keen-eyed savage at once halted and leaped backward, for he had caught a glimpse of Bert's gun, from the muzzle of which the torch light glinted. At the same moment Bert pressed the trigger. The Indian uttered a yell, and fell head first at the foot of the rocks. Instantly the other savages pre ed forsari to a walt to point of the Block House Boys, and the cave rang with their blood-chilling war cries. Then as the Senecas charged Val discharged his gun. It chanced that his bullet pierced the heart of a great war chief. As the savage fell the remaining Senecas set up the death wail of the tribe, and halted for a moment. Then they raised the dead chief and carried him back some distance. This delay in the attack gave the two boys an opportunity to reload their flint-lock guns. But the Indians came on again, just as the boys were priming their weapons.

They both fired at once. But the charge was not checked. The succeeding moment the Indians reached the rocky wall, and were attempting to scale it. Then the boys sprang up and discharged their single-barreled pistols, and clubbing their ans, wielded them furiously, seeking to beat k their red enemies. Just then the report of three guns crashed simultaneously at the mouth of the cave. The Indians halted in their desperate charge. They knew they were attacked in the rear, and leaving the barricade, they hastily retreated toward the entrance of the cave. The Block House Boys sank down upon the rocks panting and well nigh exhausted with the fatigue of the desperate fight they had made. But they believed friends were at hand, and the thought cheered them beyond measure. As the Senecas thronged toward the mouth of the cave the three

After leaving Badger at a safe distance from the cave Blackwood and Manatock started back in the land and saw a band of savages led by limit in the cave, but still hung around near by.

CHAPTER XVI.-Manatock Goes for Help.

The situation was not only a perilous one, but xing as well. But Manatock was thinking it, and the quick-witted Indian received every phase of the present situation as well as those which succeeding events might be sumed to presently cause. The Indian's plans were immediately formed, and he hastened to

Only one way. Manatock go for help while you go in cave. With boys you make four. Mouth of cave small. You four, if make good fight, hold out some time before Senecas get in cave."

Blackwood, and he rushed into the cave as he spoke, closely followed by Colonel Hastings, while Manatock glided away unseen. There were loose rocks at hand, and all set to work to heap them in a barricade across the mouth of the cave, but almost immediately the Indians under Badger, who had now come up, made a the them backward in a hasty retreat, and then the besieged set to work again on the barricade.

Speaking hopefully, and they are to save their lives.

swiftly through the encampment of the

t have supposed he would have

thousand men sent Fort The state of the s the state of the late of the late, was The same of the party of the same of the s the same of the sa the state of the second state of the A Colonel Wilson, of ... I rican force, at once sent a runner back ward to bring up more troops as soon ... : Manatock reached the camp just arrived from A STATE OF THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF the state of the same with the same of benefit with the later was the same of the sa Linear Street, San Street, Street, Street, Street, Street, St. Linear the same the same of the same the same of the later than 18 to 18 new age to be a family the family the second to the SHOW HAVE THE RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS OF TAXABLE PARTY. OF REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER, THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER, THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER, THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER, the company of the later was been as the contract of the contr Description of the Personal Property and Per the same of the same of the same of the same of The last term of the la 4:..

with the last round of ammunition in their possession, and still the hoped-for assistance did not come.

CHAPTER XVII.—The Americans Drive Back the Enemy.

Above the din of the terrible conflict at the mouth of the cave, where the devoted little band of whites were desperately fighting for their lives against overwhelming numbers of the Indians, there suddenly rang out a resounding cheer. The noble Indian had arrived with help in the very nick of time. The hundred Americans swept down upon the renegade savages like a resistless tornado, and old Badger and two or three others escaped the white avengers.

The Block House Boys and their companions came out of the cave, and a scene of rejoicing ensued. The white scouts all knew and respected Colonel Hastings, and they rejoiced over his rescue. As they traversed the woods toward the American army Blackwood marched beside the Block House Boys, and presently he said to them in low tones:

"Circumstances have prevented my revealing to you the great secret which I have desired to tell you ever since I escaped from the Cherokee Indians, to whom I was sold by the arch villain Volmar Kilda."

"That secret concerns our father, the will by which he was disinherited, and some fraud on the part of Kilda," said Bert.

"Yes," assented Blackwood. "It is a singular story. The fact is, in England I was a gameon the estate of your grandfather. You 1. Ladly know your grandfather was killed mysteriously in the game preserves on his estate. Very well, Volmar Kilda had found out that your arm dfather had made a will revoking the one which he disinherited your father. The last will made your father the main heir. Now, Kilda murdered your grandfather. I saw him do the deed. He had previously stolen the last will, and, he thought, destroyed it. But by a lucky accident I had secured it. Kilda, in ignorance of the fact that I had the lost will, but knowing I saw him murder your grandfather, bribed me to go to America. I went, and I brought the lost will here with me. Meantime, after convertimost of the estate which he wrongfully acquired through the first will into money, Kilda also came to America. Then, to extort money from him, I made known that I had the last will. He planned cunningly after that, and I was kidnapped and sold to the Cherokees. But I had ted the last will, and Kilda did not secure THE L. AT 1-49 I was a local training from the same of NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY OF THE OWNER OF TAXABLE PARTY OF TAXABLE PARTY. THE RESIDENCE OF REPORT OF THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN TWO twinting Editor and the American powder accidently scarred my face, and the terror of a single night, when I believed that in The report that I should remain by the tute and the same

"We makes my father

"In the I will war Kilda, at his princi-

pal trading-post for barter with the Indians," re-

"Then it is beyond our reach," said Val.

"I have a plan. Manatock must be taken into our confidence, and we will arrange to go in disguise to Kilda's trading post and secure the will during the arch scoundrel's absence," explained Blackwood.

Manatock was called and everything relating to the will and the project to recover it was explained to the Mohawk, who readily volunteered to accompany the boys and the "scarface" Blackwood on their perilous mission into the enemy's country. The party reached the American army after a long march, and went to a cabin by the like the heart the position of the receive trocks. There Nettie and her father were quartered. Then the other went on to take a hand in the impending battle. The Block House Boys and Blackwood led on by Manatock overtook the division of the American army that had gone forward to make a sham attack on the enemy.

A brief but sharp engagement ensued when the attack was made. The French and Indians, thinking the entire American force, whom they so greatly outnumbered, was before them, charged fearledly. This was of common in the fearledly. This was of common the fearledly. This was of common the fearledly and the common the fearledly. The French and Indians thought the battle was well-nigh won. The Americans continued to fall back until the French and Indian forces were all drawn out of of the woods, into the clovered fields adjacent to the destroyed block house. There was a valley not far from the woods whose sides concealed the American reserves. Colonel Hastings was in command of the troops hidden there.

When the French and Indians had passed the the valley the reserve led by Colonel Hasting arged upon their flank, uttering shouts : ... ade the forest ring, and resounded afar clearings. Then was the Americans' vengeance. The bloodthirsty Indians in in vast numbers, and a retreat of the Free: and their red allies, which was little better than a di a ir as flight, at once commenced. I'l. And pursued the enemy and drove "let ber to Cown Pont, with the 50 well fortified that the Americans did not deem it advisable to lay siege to it just then. The return march of our troops immediately haven A plant the freeze of the temperature (the property to the temperature of the property to the temperature of the property to the property to the property of the Block House Boys and Manatock went on toward Canada with Blackwood.

CHAPTER XVIII .- Conclusion.

Without great difficulty, Manatock had secured complete Seneca war-dresses for the entire party.

I hished in order to carry on his trade with the limit was just at nightfall when the Block House B and their venturesome comrades arrived in the of an adjacent hill, where they stood at the limit of an adjacent hill, where they stood at the limit was presented in the limit of an adjacent hill, where they stood at the limit was presented in the limit wa

people of the trading-post, Blackwood pointed out one cabin larger than any other, standing close to

the great store-house.

"That cabin," said he, when he knew that his hearers saw the particular dwelling which he indicated, "is the cabin always occupied by Kilda when he is here. During his absence it is closed. In that dwelling the night I was kidnapped I hid the will of which I told you under a certain stone in the hearth. Now, when all the people of the little settlement are asleep, we will advance and seek to enter Kilda's cabin, secure the hidden

will, and escape."

The party remained where they were until midnight. Then the last light in the little settlement disable cared. Proceeding steadthly, that placed Kilda's cabin. They soon convinced themselves that there was no one inside of it. Then leaving Manatock and the boys on the watch outside of it, Blackwood forced open a window as silently as possible and entered. Meantime, the very day that the Block House Boys and their comrades set out for the Canadian trading-post, Kilda, accompanied by Nate Badger, the renegade, and a body-guard of a score of Senaca warriors, by a singular contretemps, also started for the same place.

trading post, had brought Kilda the intelligence that his Indian wife, who resided there, and to whom he was much attached, was dying. So Kilda set out for the post without any delay. At the time when Blackwood entered the cabin of Kilda that villain and his men were rapidly approaching the settlement. Blackwood had been inside the house but a few moments when he leaped through the window with a package in his hand, and said to his friends triumphantly:

"I have it! I found the will just where I se-

creted it so long agao."

The Block House Boys were delighted, and the little party at once started to leave the settlement. They had reached its confines when, as they were about to enter the woods, there appeared before then a file of Senecas, headed by Colombia had an illustration. The Americans sprang aside and rushed for cover. The renegade and the Indians pursued. Suddenly Manatock wheeled and discharged his gun at Badger, and with a terrible yell the rascal fell to rise no more. The fall of Badger checked the pursuit, and the Americans ran swiftly southward.

They obtained an excellent start, and although the Indians soon took their trail, they finally eluded their red enemies and at last reached Fort Edward in safety. The last will was then examined, and it was found to be precisely as Blackwood had said. Some time later, when Bert and Val Shirley were in happy possession of the fortune they had wrested from Colonel Kilda. Bert and Nettie Hastings were married. Blackwood and Manatock always thereafter, when not employed as scouts or hunters, made their home at Bert's beautiful home on Lake George, near the site of the burned block house. Some time later Val married and settled near his brother.

Next week's issue will contain "THE WHITE BOY SLAVES; or, THE STUDENT EXILES OF SIBERIA."

CURRENT NEWS

CHAMPION WHALE SKULL

A whale skull, so large that it had to be sawed into eight pieces for handling and crating, has been found on the shore of Alitak Bay, Alaska, y a representative of the biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture. The skull has been sent to the Smithsonian Iinsti-

DOGS SAVE HIS LIFE

Charlies F. Tindall, resort manager of Madeline Island, was saved from drowning by his dogs recently. Tindall was fishing on Lake Superior one mile off Big Bay Point when his del . I far dogs well through the ice.

The dogs managed to climb out of the water with Tindall having the reins. Cries of the dogs attracted Lee Russell, John and Charles Hagen, who were fishing about a half mile from dall's and succeeded in pulling him back onto solid ice.

DWARFS WITH GIANT CHESTS

On the high Andean plateau in Bolivia live dwarfs with the chests of giants. These men are Bolivian Indians, and, living as they do at a height of 12,000 to 14,000 feet above sea level, have developed immense lung power to enable them to breathe properly.

Death struck swiftly into a flock of blackbirds as they were passing over the J. R. Lippincott farm, Burlington, N. J., and hundreds of little bodies, rendered ilfeless in some puzzling manner, rained down among the fruit trees. Only part of the flock was affected, death was instanteneous and the bodies showed no sign of poison. The best guess seems to be that some form of static electricity was responsible.

One suggestion is that conflicting radio currents in some fashion caused the death of the birds. Several New Jersey scientists will be asked to the accident, who attached their dogs to Tin- consider that and any other possible explanations. Some of the bodies have been saved for them.

LOOK! LOOK! LOOK!

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Breaking The Record

- OR -

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CHAPTER XIX

A. Wild Ride.

He held on to the guard-rall and tried to make limit of heard, but with all the noise there was this was impossible, as he quely realized.

"I was an idiot to come on without tipping the porter and telling him to wait," he thought, "and now I don't know when the train will stop. The fellow is doubtless as leep by this time, and at any rate he won't hear me with all this racket. It will be a mercy if I don't fall off, riding on the ten like any tramp."

He sheltered himself all he could, but the wind blew wildly about him at time, dust and cinders wirled about him, and it seemed as if not and then he would be thrown from his place, as they whirled around curves or cashe, down teep grades.

to himself. "I suppose Mark is fast asleep and thinks that I am the same. I will I could wake that porter and get him to let me in."

He null given us trying to around the poster or any one che, and had all he could do to hold a to his ear, being could and we mout with his all me, the null icing quite chilly, although the day had been pleasant.

At last he saw signs of the cap approaching and hoped that the train would stop or that some the last of the which we call or him and all the brake man's attention.

"This is an express, fast encipled he muttered, as they whinled or, "and if I stick to my place it will be lucky."

At about despise to be seen a terms then of the and a later later men. I that they were belied by the later to be a seen that a post which is a later to be a later to be

The later than the second of the second seco

opened the door.

grained as a le get upon les feet, apage gruffly:

"Trans, eh; sealing a ride" Well, well for the all right. We've get a plue for the be-

The part fellow certainly is bed like one, butless, or ered with dust and one ers, red-fard is
on iding, more ingual was discount with this,
and the rest residentially to the ere for regardong how in that hight.

"I am let a trans," content I... and an area ness. "I was left outside by mistake. Call the porter, and he will tell you that II II all the

ets, I suppose?" laughed the other. "You look it.
You're a manage in the series and know what to
seen fellows like you before and know what to
do with them. You're will be a cord of wood
before you get anything to eat. We know what
to do with tramps in this part of the country."

"You don't know what you're talking about," sputtered Dick, shaking off the man's grasp in great indignation. "Yes, I have my sleeping-car ticket and money besides, and I happen to be an officer of the law as well, and if you try any funny busines with my you'll get you try any trouble. Hallo, Mana, or ne cut length."

bills, showed his detective holder, and then any angrily:

"Now, Mr. Smar', "lat in the in the interior

Halb, perrer, come here a minute."

The man at the station gave an arealy laugh, and just then the poster sterred and it, I had at Inck, gave a gasp, and sald:

"Man georges, and that you con all a time? An treaght po was fast the la year land the land the land to the land the land the land to the land the land to the lan

Trom me when we get through, I can tell per that.
I told you to wait."

window, and exclaimed:

Where have you been?"

The tell years of the confidence of the confidence of the state. I will year a tell year and the state. I will an interest the part of the confidence year of the tell year had not be not a factor. It a pet on the data what is one of the latest and the confidence of the confid

young and length:

The state of the train, and per the train of the train of

en the train. Mark," and I have a I have get head of them. You will see if the term out as I say."

"All : with my buy." all Marin, governor

Trix and Miss Tryphena came in to breakfast at the house of the ladies having the least suspicion of the young detective's thrilling experience of the night.

(To be continued.)

GOOD READING

WRIST WATCHES POOR TIME-KEEPERS

Paris jewelers have their repair departments clogged up with wrist watches. They state that no watch will stand a jigsaw life indefinitely. They also say ordinary watches must not be laid on a cold marble bureau top during the night, as is the habit of thousands for watches require a certain amount of warmth afforded by bodily heat in the daythime and a cloth protection at night.

FLYING FISH HAVE BEST WING STRUCTURE

By studying the wing structure of flying fish, an authority on the flight of birds has found that their wings are some four or five times as efficient, for soaring flight, as the wings of birds. He attributed this, says Popular Mechanics, to the fact that the fin rays formed projected ridges on the under surface of the wings. By experimenting with models fashioned on similar lines, he found that the fin ray caused a sheltered area to appear back of the ray when the model moved through the air. His conclusion is that this sheltore! area acts as a force to drive the wing thead when soaring.

EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS

There are numerous pyramids in Egypt, some large and some small. It was the ancient way of rying the dead. In very ancient times a square ciamber was sunk in the earth and the dead were : ... ed in it and a roof of poles and brushwood covered over it. Out of this pyramidal form eveloped the pyramids. The brush covering was in the comment of hear and that in turn is illimed by the continuetion. Some of ... very large pyramic are Medan, erected for Larg Speferu in 4720 B. C.; the three pyramile of Girch, engine in King King it, 17 of B. C.; R. of Khafra, 100 B. C., at 1 to Kor More

GIRL COLLARS THIEF

I man who described himself as Vincenzo I did at Main, " a say are at he be be the econds after he had snatched a payroll con-\$357 from the hands of Miss Ruth Spielcashier in the Independent Car Front M. ufacturing Company, at 495 West Broadway, Man the other afternoon. The girl's attracted passersby, who nabbed the man him for the police.

Maria Salara I de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del la compania de la compania del la compania del la compania de la compania del la compan will the state of the same and the state of the same West House the tree's when Log a '.Ze. who have the sale and the sale of the s In all the terms of the same o Correct the property, as used the first time at Pull The Medical was and Special Private by the con-In and more ! A weart product to the amount of the country of the cou

Logially, a or ing to the poince, admitted talling the mas without work, Look on file i.

CITY'S DIRTIEST MAN

Described by Magistrate Goodman in Tombs Court as the "dirtiest man in New York, if no! in the United States," and as "a menace not only to human beings, but also to animals," Nichola Ritumano, 42, who call be fad re home, but who, officials of the Interboro Rapid Transit said, had been living in the subway for three years, was sent to the workhouse recently for six months.

Ritumano was arrested while walking along the subway tracks between the Worth and Canal street stations. The magistrate was told that Ritumano had annoyed the officials of the company for the past three years walking on the tracks, picking up discarded newspapers, riding on subway trains and sleeping in the stations.

When arraigned Ritumano wore an old army coat, tattered trousers, and his black hair and beard were a tangle of dirt and grease. His hands and face were covered with grime, and he the magistare that he entire termina when he last used soap and that he considered it poison.

He said he had not slept in a bed for three years and had not bathed in many months. He said last Sunday he tried to procure a bath in a Bowery lodging house, but he was turned away by the clerk as being "too dirty for us here."

Ritumano took from his clothing bank books which showed he had between \$5,000 and \$6,000 on deposit.

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INTERESTING RADIO NEWS AND HINTS

Genuine tubes can be distinguished through the trademark on the glass. The trademark on the genuine tube is blown into the glass and cannot be removed. The counterfeit tube has the trademark stenciled in white paste and can be scraped off.

TICKLER COIL AND ITS USE

The tickler coil and a coil of wire are placed in the traction to the prinary and secondary circuits of a receiving set. The tickler coil itself is connected in the plate circuit of the vacuum tube and affords a feed back action which proposed and affords a feed back action which proposed explained by describing what have easify a take the telephone received from the look when the left is the bell is ringing and then place the receiver against the transmitter. The result will be a continued howling. In a radio set when such a howl is heard it is certain that regeneration is taking place.

Directed Radio Waves for broadcasting are ; " tell by Marconi himself. As the result of unitarion expellments with directed radio waves, Mare ni las me to the conclusion that this year I of communication is not only highly practically, but that it must bring about far greater ellinary. In collaboration with C. S. Franklin, the great inventor recently communicated over a distance of 2250 nautical miles with considerably less expenditure of electrical energy then is generally used. Mare at las been led to believe through his recent successes in directed radio, that owners of crystal sets in the United States will soon be enabled to receive messages broadcast from London, because all the radio energy will be sent out in one direction thus intensifying the signals in reecivers lying within that beam.

TRACING TROUBLES

In using the vacuum tube receiver it often happens that the filament flickers or fails entirely to light. In such a case it is a good idea to remove the tubes and clean the ends of the contacts. This is done either by file or sandpaper. Sometimes the jacks are at fauit. When this happens inspect the connections leading to the jack.

Before attempting to make changes on the jacks remove all plate battery connections before making jack adjustments to prevent so the cuits, which may result in the burnial of the vacuum tube filaments. If investigation of both stages of amplification fails to produce the

desirable to test the tubes in various combinations, shifting them from one socket to the next.

RADIO CABINETS

Radio, so called, is becoming more Virtually all the leading in the leading out radio form of attractive furniture.

Thus the self-contained and attractive furniture radio set is finding its way into the living room of the finest home, instead of being relegated to some odd corner as in the past, when it required mussy storage battery, a mass of "B" batteries, and a maze of unsightly wires. The furniture radio move is an excellent one and will no doubt do more to give radio a definite place in the home than anything else. However, there is the everpresent danger that furniture radios may become more furniture and less radio. That is to say, there are already ample signs that the radio end of some furniture radio sets is not what it should be. Too much attention is paid to making the set look attractive, and too little to radio details. Furthermore, the wish is often expressed by the public that the manufacturers of the highest grade and most efficient radio sets put their highest type radio sets into furniture radio form. After all, it is the radio set proper, and not the beautiful Jacobean period cabinet, that brings real pleasure into the home.

RADIO VOICE IN ONE HORSEPOWER

It is estimated by Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith that a radio broadcasting station is roughly a one-horsepower voice. This way of regarding a radiophone station is justified by the value of power which leaves the aerial wires. One horsepower consists in hoisting half a ton from the ground to the height of thirty-three feet, in one minute.

The electrical unit of power used in speaking of a broadcasting station is the "mater" It takes slightly less than 750 watts to make a horse-wer. The average American broadcasting station radiates from 500 to 1,000 watts.

Measurements indicate that the power of a human voice, in loud speech or song, is only about one-one-hundred millionth of a watt. Yet this minute power is sufficient to be heard by the ear for several hundred feet. The human ear is calculated to be about as sensitive as the eye, so far as the amount of power required to give a definite sensation is concerned. By radio this feeble voice can be built up to a one-horse-power voice. This means that the voice of a speaker broadcasting from WJZ is increased over fifty billion times. In other words, if everybody on earth were to get together and shout at once, the voice power produced would still fall far short of the strength of a voice broadcast by WJZ. The world's call would be only about one-thirtieth as strong as that of the broad-casting station.

The Neutrodyne Receiver is steadily growing in reaching scope, and its utmost simplicity. The usual neutrodyne set has two stages of radioof audio-frequency amplification, making a total the correctly constructed neutrodyne remains in the correctly constructed neutrodyne remains in the correctly constructed neutrodyne remains in the correctly constructed neutrodyne remains and the correctly constructed neutrodyne remains an

remarkable feature of the neutrodyne receiver is that the same stations will come in day after day with the same adjustments of the three dials, so that the user merely has to chart the various stations according to the readings of the three dials, and from that time on the stations can be tuned in by simply setting the dials to the chart numbers. As for selectivity, the neutrodyne, operating in a congested radio section such as New pick up long-distance stations. When it comes to distance, a properly constructed neutrodyne receiver in New York City will pick up the Pacific Coast broadcasting stations at night as a fairly regular performance.

Interference is on the increase, especially in the New England and Middle Atlantic States. Indeed, evening after evening radio programs are seriously marred by radio telegraphic interfer-. It is the that the property is in the factor of the state of the sta comes from certain ship and shore and Navy radio telegraph stations employing the 450-meter wave length, which falls in the middle of the broadcasting wave length range. The Radio Club of America, the pioneer radio amateur organization of the world, has taken up this matter and is exerting every effort to put an end to the present very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Two operating companions have been using the 450-meter wave length and causing serious interference with radio programs. One company has indicated its willingness to abandon the 450meter length, provided its competitors do like-...se. Another source of interference is from the shore stations operated by the Navy. Steps e now under way, with a view to having the mmercial stations as well as the Naval stations and the widely-tuned damped radio transers in favor of the sharply-tuned continuousitters. Another source of interferof regenerative sets in ced or careless operators. ! is the most serious - Illi i re-ers scattered over the wide area. ... cause considerable interference, because the spark ignition which sets up radio waves. lighting is also a prolific source of inter-Transmit

. DOWN TRUETSILE Townster, where we treated of earth 1 man I was been been a facilities of the contract of the contra the same of the last of the same of the sa - taling the last talk to be a select on ething was radically wrong. Probably THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO the state of the s NAMED AND POST OF THE OWNER, WHEN PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER, the same that the particle is a first transfer of the particle NAME AND POST OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNER. when the contract of the contr Other fault, inches the con-This

should be done especially when connecting the leads to the grid posts of the vacuum tube sockets. To avoid capacity effects, the connections should be kept at least three-quarters of an inch apart and, when feasible, the wires should be crossed rather than run parallel so that only small portions of the neighboring conductors are close together. This holds true also for plate leads. Altogether too frequently a trouble is due to the closeness and parallelism of these lead wires.

Rigid connections should be used wherever adaptable so that accidental displacement is not likely. The connections should also be firmly clamped and the junction of the wires tinned over. A good soldering connection should be made rather than a twisted connection unsoldered. The latter will not remain permanent. Undesirable sounds in a radio set develop from faulty connections which are amplified in the subsequent stages until their volume seriously affects the music and speech which is produced in the head telephones or the loud speaker.

Another important item that should be followed very closely is that of the B batteries. A bad B battery when connected in series with other B batteries is often the cause of disturbances. Erratic discharge within the battery itself is the source and the only remedy is to take out the battery and replace it with a new one. This holds true also with the A battery, although it is less liable to happen here than with the B battery. Proper care, however, should be taken of the batteries as a whole. Too much B battery current being supplied to the plates of the vacuum tubes is another source of troublesome noise. This trouble may be remedied by decreasing the B battery voltage.

Where coils of the duo-lateral type are employed, it sometimes happens that the fine wires leading to them or within the coils of transformers are common sources of trouble. The insulation sometimes holds the cut ends together, thereby creating a more or less continuous path for the high frequency resistance.

When such a break occurs it is best to separate the separate of the separate is no reading on the voltmeter it is a sure indication that the conductor under suspicion is broken.

When so you to be not not properly by the Year of the name of the local division in the last the l the title and a second line and the second s AND REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND the property of the last of the Australian Company of the State of the the same that th the Person named in column 2 and 2 a the famous and so much are discounted to the famous and REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONS NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IN COL the part of later heavy the beautiful the part of the later will be a second of the later with the later will be a second of t Second Str. Str. Law Street, and NAME OF ADDRESS OF TAXABLE PARTY AND POST OF TAXABLE PARTY. Control of Control of Control of the NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN THE Luityry. Carried by the facts and for any to the contract of the contract of the builts for the last the thirt will be builted with Hent If the control in the control i delicate mis 1 m to 1 m 1.61 11. 22.

PLUCK AND LUCK

NEW YORK, APRIL 16, 1924

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

2,000 CHICKENS DIE IN FIRE

Fire recently destroyed several chicken houses of the H. Kahn, New York banker, near Wood-trie, L. I. Francisco (1981) (1

The residence, a quarter of a mile away, was have started in an incubator or in defective electric wiring. Estimate of the damage could not be

obtained.

i . . .

LECTURER WHISTLES BIRDS FONGS

The North Country Garden Club of Long Island, of which Mrs. Robert Bacon is president, is providing nature study lectures in public and private schools. It has secured William C. eeler, who shows slides of native wild flowers, ferns and birds on a daylight screen which is a great improvement over the darkened room.

He whistles the bird's songs while showing appreciation of the wild flowers, ferns and birds to help to save them.

The importance of conservation of wild life becoming more apparent every day as the flowers, ferns and Christmas greens disap

13 YEARS IN THE MAIL

Thirteen years after it was posted, a postal card was delivered to J. V. Scott, who lives on Route 4, from Dyer, a few miles north of Trenton The card was addressed to his wife, not. and was received on Feb. 27, 1:11.

In the meantime the writer, Bryant Overall, has died. Also Mrs. Scott, who died about three years ago. Mr. Overall died a short time after the card was mailed and since his death his father, mother, sister, brother and two children of the Scott family have passed to their reward, making eight deaths in the family during the time the card was being delivered to the person to whom it was addressed.

The card is thought to have lodged in the bottom of a mail sack, where it was stuck until it came to light and was delivered to its destination. The card is said to look about as fresh as it should have when mailed and the writing is very

clear.

LAUGHS

The Judge—What proof have you that this chauffeur was intoxicated? The Country Policeman—He stopped his car at a crossing.

"So you charge your husband with tearing your hair. Did you scream?" "I would have, your honor, but I wasn't there when he did it."

Maud—Oh, I'm invited to the Wayups' ball, but I don't know what in the world to wear. What would you wear if you had my complexion? Millicent—A thick veil.

He—You are the embodiment of all that's beautiful and——She—What on earth are you talking about? He—Nothing on earth; I was speaking of a heavenly creature. (Cards.)

Willie—Papa, is it swearing to talk about old socks being darned? Papa—No, my son. Why? Willie—'Cause I wish Johnny would keep his darned old socks out of my drawer.

Anning—Has Badders made a success of the stage? Manning—Yes. He acted the part of butler so well in a play last winter that he got a place in a Fifth avenue family.

Hight Jinks! Help, help! Cool, help! Mr.

High Jinks—Don't you see how I'm fixed? Mr.

Cool—Yes, but I never saw you in a hole yet you couldn't crawl out of.

Visitor—Aren't you glad u are a little girl?
Little Girl—No; I'd rather we a little boy. Visitor—But little boys generally have to wear their father's leftover clothes. Little Girl—Mother is a suffragette, and she says pretty soon it won't make much difference.

A little Bangor boy surprised both his parents and his school teacher not a little recently, while at dinner. He propounded the following scientific question to the teacher: "Which is the quickest, heat or cold?" The teacher was a little slow about venturing a reply, but finally said she thought heat was. "That is right," said the sharp youngster. "because you can catch a cold."

BRIEF BUT POINTED

STRANGE FISH

The jumping fishes are well known upon the shores of all Indian seas. Their position is usmangrove roots by their fins, with their tails only in the water. When alarmed they make a spring by means of their bent, muscular pectoral fins, and then skim across the water by a succession of short jumps until they reach a place of safety. Scientists have found that respiration was mainly performed by the tail, so that the fish may stay out of the water indefinitely if the tip of its

kinds of fish to stay out of water practically a find the first of the factor of the f

KILLED BY "DIVINE COMMAND"

Declaring that she had been told in a "divine force her daughter, John Eva Win
in the pher husband, John Ed
in the pher

at St. Petersburg.

had come under the influence
two weeks ago, when her
cured of paralysis.

rise in the West at her command.
her husband as "the devil who stood

RUM MUNNER KILLS STEE

windled out of \$5,000,000 by

spending several months trying to collect the money, Sir John killed himself rather than face

bankruptcy.

In order to finance the deal he had borrowed from Scottish banks. He gave them forged documents as security, not wishing them to know his real operations. He expected to repay the loans easily from the profits of the rum running.

Sir John Stewart's suicide also reveals the fact that he paid \$400,000 for the baronetcy conferred on him in 1920. It is supposed that the \$400,000 went to the Lloyd George party funds.

He expected to "clean up" on rum running, and line is a second of the line is a second it and never amous castle, spent \$250,000 on it and never

spent a night in it.

He paid \$750 a week for a suite in a London hotel, spent \$25,000 in a year just for clothes, and indulged in one luxury after another. Then his castles in the air collapsed.

NEW MACHINERY SPEEDS GOLD MINING

Powerful electrical machinery, just installed in the Randfontein group of gold mines in South Africa, will enable gold to be mined more rapidly at it is greater matrice. The first been possible. Whereas the average tonnage in 1919 amounted to slightly more than 100,000 tons of ore per month, it is now the intention to haul 70,000 tons monthly from each of the two like it is fits, or a total of 140,000 tons per month, it is now the mine by approximately one-third.

The new installation consists of electrical hoisting machinery on the north vertical shaft of the Randfontein group of mines, which is owned by the Randfontein Central Gold Mines, Ltd. Each hoist consists of two cast steel cylindrical drums twelve feet in diameter and six feet wide, directly connected to two 2,500-horsepower direct current motor rated at 106 revolutions per minute.

regulates the direction and speed of the hoi as he likes, he is prevented from accelerating the speed too fast by the action of electrical relays.

Should the driver faint, or lose control

stop. If lifting men, it will halt a few
feet above the surface of the shaft, and if lifting
ore it will stop a few feet above the tipping
point.

Each hoist is designed to raise pounds of ore from a depth of 5,000 pounds of 4,000 feet per mi pounds of 4,000 feet per mi pounds of a larger force of men.

to be working smoothly and satisfactorily, were installed by the African General Electrical Company. The hoists are said to be the largest electrically operated lifts in the world.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

HANGS BY TWO FINGERS HALF HOUR, CALMLY SMOKING

Bert Boyle, twenty-four years old, a day laborer, calmly smoked cigarettes when he was caught between a pulley wheel and a heavy elevator cable on the top floor of the building at 33

East Thirty-third street, New York.

Three fingers of his left hand were crushed, and by the remaining two he hung suspended, a fall threatening that would mean instant death. A rescue crew worked frantically for half an hour to free him. Bert directed the work, continued smoking, took a drink at one time, and when they finally got him safely extricated sank into a heap unconscious.

At Bellevue Hospital they amputated the two other fingers, leaving Bert only a right hand. He hung seventeen floors above the basement during the half hour of agony, and never uttered a sound except to tell the firemen, police and half

a dozen tenants what to do.

WEALTH OF SIX STATES

Details of the wealth of six states at the close of 1922 were made public recently by the Census Bureau.

Iowa's wealth was \$10,511,682,000, an increase of 37.2 per cent. over 1912, with a per capita wealth of \$4,274, an increase of 24.1 per cent.

Minnesota's wealth was \$8,547,918,000, an increase of 58.9 per cent., with a per capita wealth of \$3,443, an increase of 37.4 per cent.

Nebraska's wealth was \$5,320,075,000, an increase of 44.2 per cent, with a per capita wealth

ci \$4,004, an increase of 32.4 per cent.

Oregon's wealth was \$4,419,459,000, an increase of 68.3 per cent., with a per capita wealth of \$4,182, an increase of 50.4 per cent.

Colorado's wealth was \$3,229,352,000, an in-

ef quillo, an ... care of 22.8 per cent.

of \$3,691, an increase of 33.5 per cent.

FOUGHT 14-FOOT SHARK IN COCKPIT OF BOAT

Details of a thrilling fight between four men and a 600-pound shark in the cockpit of a fifty-foot fishing boat Thursday became known at The first time. The man of Palm Beach, skipper of the faunch Rippie.

The party went out just before noon the other they cast anchor, three miles off the coast

party then took a hand in hauling the shark aboard, despite the efforts of the shark to free itself.

Once aboard the craft, the shark renewed its fight, as retreat to the cabin was made impossible for the men because of the swings of the monster's tail, while a rough sea kept the boat

rolling about.

Kaufman saw a hatchet in a corner of the cockpit and went for it. There followed a series of
attacks upon the shark. It was only after several minutes that the shark, deprived of its
natural element and weak from exertion became
quiet, that the huge tail was secured and the
monster was killed.

The party returned to port with their catch,

which was 14 feet long.

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The exhibition of caverns to the trate in pattice is noted by the United Sstate Geological Survey as a growing inry in Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The famous Valley Pike, now a link in the New York to Atlanta highway, is traversed yearly by thousands of auintent upon seeing American and no one has adequately seen America who has not visited one or more of the caverns in the Shenandoah Valley. Until recently the only elseles that were the little to the pride were the wir lated Luray Cavern- in Page Conty, and Werer Caves in nonthe Augusta County, near Grottoes. How-mand the Dri less Caverns, near Mark Market, 11 Shenandaai 11 25 7 4 1 11 (1: 21 62-51) the paid ond co M : 11 111other cavern near Jacksvin, also in Shenan-13 11 . (1) made its first bid. for public favor. caves have been Shenannamed doah Caverns. They are about three miles south of Moun Jackson two miles of the Val-

road.

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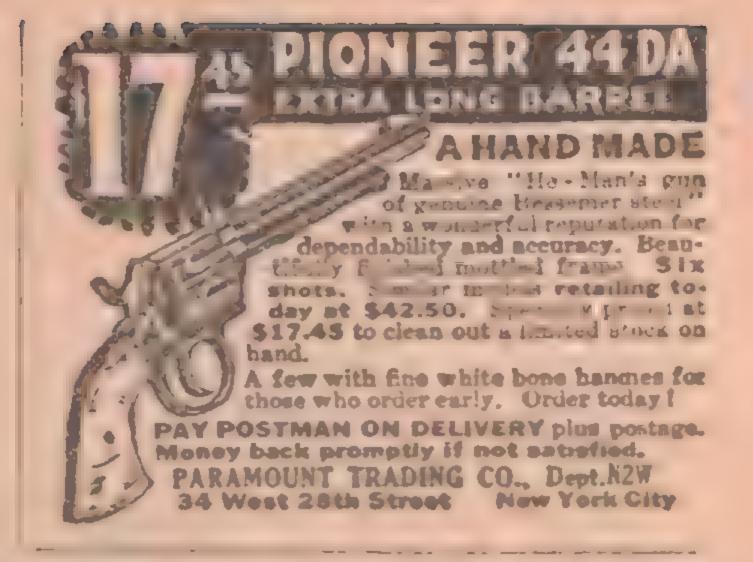
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On the estate of the Duke of Atholl at Dunk-Scotland, eld, there is shown to the visitor rocky crag which, in many places, is quite leafy with foliage of trees. This crag is called Craigybarns, and some years ago it was destitute of any vegetating. Owing to the steepness of the rock face it was quite impossible any man to climb upper the parts, it was wished to plant trees in the rock crevices. A proposal was made that the seeds of suitable trees should be shot onto the crag by means of two small muzzleloading guns. Tin canisters were made of such a size that they would fit into the cannon. These were filled with the seeds of the trees and the covers then put in place. The canisters, with gunpowder, were loaded into the cannon and these were then trained on the crag. When the canisters hit they the rock burst into pieces and the seeds were scattered in all directions. In course of time these seeds grew up into trees, so that now the onetime bare rock is clothed with abundant vegetation.

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